

Mitterrand proposes summit

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand proposed Sunday that government leaders of current U.N. Security Council members should meet to discuss Middle East problems and arms control following the Gulf war. In his first televised address since the ceasefire in the Gulf last week, Mr. Mitterrand said the solution of middle East problems should be entrusted to the United Nations. "The United Nations have a duty to organise the return to peace," he said. "Why not get the Security Council together at the level of heads of state and governments for the first time?" he asked. A multi-national peace-keeping force should be stationed between Iraq and Kuwait and an international conference called to resolve the region's problems, a meeting of world statesmen said in London Sunday. "The priorities in the Gulf, beyond disentangling the present... situation on the Iraqi-Kuwait border and the question of who will govern Iraq, call for the eventual interposition of a peace-keeping force between Iraq and Kuwait," a statement issued after the meeting said.

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Iraq and allies agree on terms

Accord reached at Safwan after Security Council adopts resolution making demands

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI LEADERS accepted allied terms to end the Gulf war Sunday after the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution setting a series of conditions for a formal ceasefire.

The United States and its allies pledged to pull out of Iraq once a ceasefire was signed and hailed the battlefield parley as a major advance toward peace.

General Norman Schwarzkopf, American commander of the coalition forces, said after talks at the captured desert air base in Safwan in southern Iraq:

"I am happy to say we agreed on all matters... we are well on the way to a lasting peace."

He said: "I think we have made a major step forward in the cause of peace."

The Iraqis gave coalition forces the layout of the minefields they planted in Kuwait and Gulf waters to enable clearance work to begin immediately.

Gen. Schwarzkopf said that the next step was for Iraq to accept the terms of a ceasefire resolution passed Saturday night by the

U.N. Security Council.

The vote on the resolution was 11 to one with three abstentions. Cuba cast the only negative vote. Abstaining were India, China and Yemen.

The resolution combines conditions laid out by Mr. Bush last Wednesday, with demands that Iraq immediately implement all 12 resolutions adopted since its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Originally proposed by the United States, the document put a United Nations imprimatur on the agenda of the Sunday meeting.

But it does not call for a permanent ceasefire as several non-aligned countries had demanded. Instead, it lays the groundwork for an eventual ceasefire.

Meanwhile, it permits the U.S.-led coalition rather than the United Nations to retain the initiative in negotiating an end to the war (see full text on page 2).

The resolution was sponsored by the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, Romania, Belgium and Zaire.

According to U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, the resolu-

tion would establish "a definite end to hostilities" if Iraq adheres to its demands.

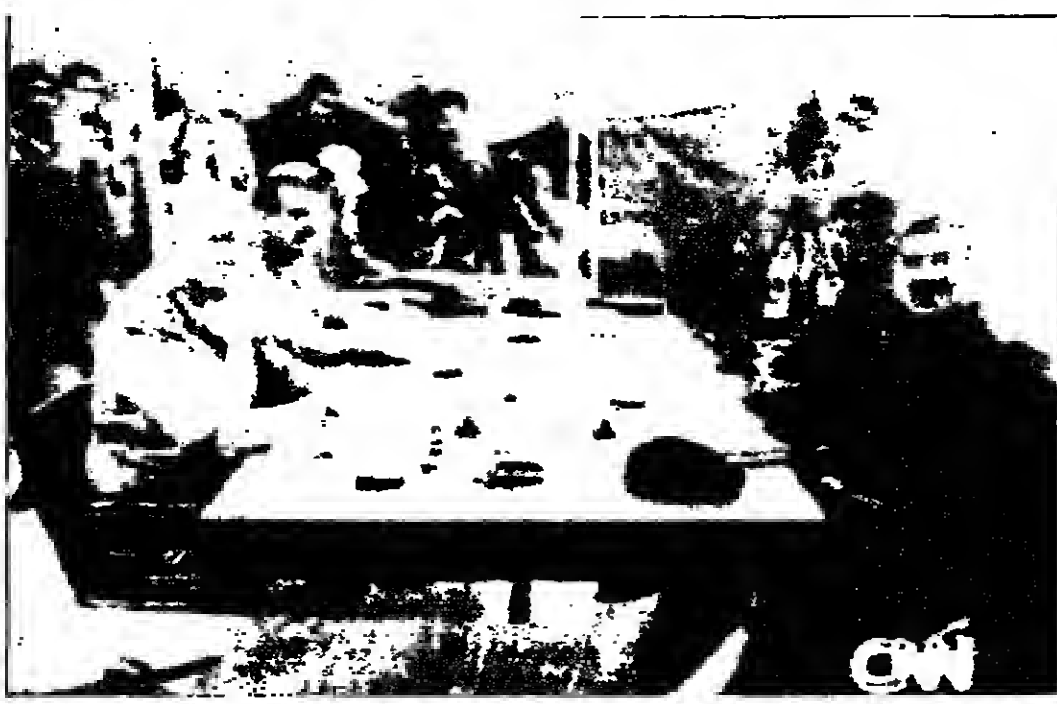
But the vote was delayed after Cuba came up with 18 amendments that called for an actual ceasefire, the immediate dispatch of U.N. military observers to supervise it, and new efforts by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to reestablish peace and security in the region.

The 15-member council voted 18 times to defeat the amendments with most members abstaining.

Yemen's Ambassador Abdalla Al Ashtal, who supported some of the Cuban amendments, told the Council it was his "hope the resolution would have called for a ceasefire... and given, at least, a humble role to the secretary-general of the United Nations" in negotiating and maintaining the peace.

The allies-Iraqi meeting in southern Iraq on Sunday lasted less than two hours and the allies drove the group of Iraqi generals back to their lines in U.S.

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Allied and Iraqi military commanders meet at the southern Iraqi town of Safwan. At left is American commander General Norman Schwarzkopf.

Baghdad works on restoring normalcy

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD RADIO indicated President Saddam Hussein was firmly in control of the country Sunday as it accepted peace with the allies and began a new battle to recover from the ruin of war.

Electricity was restored to some neighborhoods in the capital late Saturday and early Sunday. Provinces in the north had power restored Saturday night, newspapers and radio reported.

The government daily newspaper, Al Thawra, quoted a transportation ministry spokesman as saying efforts had been redoubled to restore public transport in Baghdad with the help of military buses and drivers.

Baghdad Radio announced Sunday morning that Iraqi television began broadcasting Saturday night and would continue to air programmes daily between 5 p.m. and midnight.

But as the city struggled to

restore basic services, an explosion reminded residents that the path to reconstruction will be long.

The explosion at 4:15 p.m. (1545 GMT) sent a mushroom-shaped column of smoke and fire into the sky over the extreme southern part of the city. Smoke of the blast could be seen 25 kilometres away from the upper floors of the Al Rashid hotel in downtown Baghdad.

The blast, which was later reported as a controlled blowing up of a bridge hit in allied raids, shook the foundation of the hotel. Residents in some neighbourhoods said the windows of houses had been shattered.

At one Baghdad home, women unshowered, men put out kerosene lamps and candles and children clapped when the lights came on. Children jumped for joy when they saw their first cartoon in weeks.

Deputy Industry Minister Ahmad Al Delimi said 20 per cent of Baghdad got its electricity back after dark on Sunday. Some 60 per cent of the city would have power on Monday night, rising to 100 per cent by Friday.

Power would initially be supplied for between six and 12 hours a night, said Mr. Delimi, who is in charge of power supplies. Daytime electricity is not yet planned.

"With the help of God, we will resolve all the problems we are facing under the guidance of President Saddam Hussein and with his direct support for us," Mr. Delimi told Reuters.

President Saddam has issued a string of directives in the past two days ordering the restoration of limited power and television and reopening schools from next Saturday to try to get Iraq back to normal as fast as possible.

Much of Iraq's infrastructure, including power plants, communications networks and

restored basic services, an explosion reminded residents that the path to reconstruction will be long.

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Fundamentalists say they control Basra

Combined agency dispatches

ON THE KUWAIT-IRAQ border, Muslim fundamentalists have risen against the Iraqi government in Iraq's second city, Basra, thrown open the gates of the prisons and claimed control of the city.

But it remained unclear whether they were seeking help from the allied forces a few kilometres away or fighting the American-led coalition.

One report, carried by Agence France Press from Beirut, spoke of the rebels fighting "the invading forces" while a Reuters dispatch said leaders of the fundamentalists had sent a message for help from the allied forces.

The rebels say they are followers of Mohammad Bakir Al Hakim, a longstanding opponent of the Iraqi Baath Party.

His group, the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), issued statements in Lebanon claiming control of Nassiriya, a strategic city on the Euphrates River, of nearby Suq Al Shuyukh, Al Tar and Al Fuhud and large parts of Al Amarah.

Iran's official news agency IRNA reported anti-government demonstrations in several Iraqi towns near the border.

The ruling Baath Party, which is dominated by Sunni Muslims, are still in control of Baghdad.

A statement by the group issued in Beirut was carried by AFP said that the fundamentalist Shi'ite opposition had started "resistance operations against the invading forces of the international alliance."

The communiqué said "Islamic resistance members, in collaboration with citizens in the city of Basra, attacked the central prison and managed to free more than 300 followers of the SAIRI and 600 prisoners of other nationalities."

The opposition added that "our forces started resistance operations against the invaders. The mujahideen exchanged fire for a short period of time with an infantry unit of the invading forces when it was trying to

approach Al Nassiriya, and then returned to its position.

In another development, another Islamic organisation which is a faction of the SAIRI asked the Kuwaitis to stop "the instant execution of Iraqi prisoners."

According to one of the organisation's leaders, Jafar Mohammad, about 50 Iraqi soldiers were executed after the liberation of Kuwait.

Emissaries from the rebels told reporters with allied troops that loyalist forces were counter-attacking but Basra was in fundamentalist hands, Reuters said.

Refugees from Basra supported the rebel claims. They said the revolt started early Saturday.

According to the Reuters report:

"A small party of rebels from Basra in civilian clothes crossed the allied front line in a battered pick-up truck on Sunday looking for a U.S. or allied commander to whom they could deliver their appeal for aid."

They told reporters at the Kuwait-Iraq border 2 p.m. (1100 GMT) that fighting had been going on for 35 hours in Basra, a major port into which vast thousands of Iraqi soldiers poured after last week's land battles.

"The opposition control all the city," the leader of the band, a 32-year-old farmer called Hamad Ibrahim Wali, said through an interpreter.

"All offices of the (Baath) party, police stations, security areas are all hit by the opposition. We broke the jails and let all the prisoners out."

"There are many dead — maybe hundreds, I'm not sure."

The rebels' appeal was a letter, written in English in neat blue ballpoint on a lined sheet of white paper and dated Sunday.

"To dear friends foreign forces, good day," it said.

"After the great liberation we have done against (President) Saddam (Hussein) and his forces, we suffer from some forces related and led by (President) Saddam's party and army," it said.

"We have need of your help as

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Joe Clark due here this week

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark will visit Jordan this week as part of a regional tour which will also take him to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Syria.

"Clark will be on a mission to discuss the situation in the region after the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf," Embassy Counsellor Michael Chesson told the Jordan Times Saturday.

Although no exact date has been set yet for the foreign minister's visit to Jordan, Mr. Chesson said, that it was safe to expect it "before the end of this week."

Foreign Ministry officials originally confirmed Mr. Clark's visit but said that they were not informed of the purpose of the visit.

"Clark was here in November and he discussed the situation with Jordanian officials then; he will want to discuss the new developments in the region with Jordanian authorities this time again," Mr. Chesson said.

He said Egypt was not included in the foreign minister's itinerary but that the exact schedule of his tour has still to be confirmed to the embassy.

In November, Mr. Clark pledged that he would seek to use what he termed as the "valuable relationship between his country and the United States to ensure that the views of His Majesty King Hussein on the Gulf crisis were heard and heeded."

At the time of his visit Canada also announced that it was extending aid worth \$26.5 million Canadian dollars (\$22.88 million) to Jordan to help offset the adverse economic impact of the Gulf crisis and international sanctions against Iraq.

In mid-February Canada also announced it was prepared to help Jordan find alternative supplies of crude oil and expressed its understanding of Jordan's difficult position in finding its energy requirements.

The statement came after U.S.-led allied forces bombed the Baghdad-Ruweisah road and tankers which were ferrying oil from Iraq to Jordan. The U.S. then contended that Jordan was breaking the U.N.-imposed embargo on Iraq although the Kingdom had officially applied to the international organisation asking for exemption.

The air assaults resulted in the death and injury of scores of drivers and other civilians.

Mubarak urges Arab unity, peace after war split

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called Sunday on Arab countries to put Gulf war divisions behind them and make a fresh start to build security and cooperation in the region.

In a televised speech to parliament, Mr. Mubarak laid out a series of principles for bringing peace to the Middle East including ridding the area of weapons of mass destruction and boosting democracy in the Arab World.

Mr. Mubarak urged Arab leaders to cooperate in drafting a brighter future for the region and warned that continued discord could lead to heavier days.

"It is the responsibility of the Arab leadership and people to deal with the dangerous situation and join hands to agree on a basis to launch a better future and a new life where wounds will be healed and new blood will flow after the bloodletting that struck our Arab nation," Mr. Mubarak said.

"The harsh experience in front of us in Arab land is a lesson and the future will be more difficult and bitter if the Arab forces, official or popular, continue in the same path of contradictions."

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he added.

Mr. Mubarak did not say whether Egypt would deal with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein but said that it is willing to participate in the reconstruction of Iraq.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will visit the region next week and the first item on his agenda is to discuss a new security plan after Iraq withdrew from Kuwait.

The United States and other Western allies expect to participate in the new plan.

"Arab security will only be Arab and it will have all the protection needed for this part of the world," Mr. Mubarak said.

In the past, the Egyptian president has said that he preferred any new security arrangement to be Arab, and that Western participation could be under the United Nations flag.

"We don't want a division between (Arab) east and west. We don't want a continuation of campaigns of bad feelings... we don't want the Arab Nation to be two nations," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mubarak, who sent 35,000

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Qadhafi calls on Arabs to reject Western terms

ROME (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi urged Arabs to make their own security arrangements following the end of the Gulf war, the Libyan news agency JANA reported Sunday.

Colonial Qadhafi "called for the need to resist any imposed settlement on the region by Western aircraft and fleets," JANA said, reporting on a speech he gave in the coastal city of Sirte.

"Security arrangement should be carried out by Arabs. We will not accept anyone lying to us and saying that Kuwait is still in danger and that Saudi Arabia was still in danger because it is, in fact, Iraq which is now in danger," JANA quoted Colonel Qadhafi as saying.

Settlement by the West "must be rejected especially if it affected the Palestinian question, for any settlement in the current circumstances will not be in the benefit of the Arabs because the allies are the allies of the Israelis," Col. Qadhafi was further quoted as saying.

JANA said Col. Qadhafi praised the efforts of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev towards ending the war.

Col. Qadhafi "saluted the role undertaken by friend Mikhail in the pressure exerted on the West for a ceasefire."

The Soviet Union was long a supplier of arms and military expertise to Libya, but after the 1986 U.S. bombing of two Libyan cities, Moscow appeared to have distanced itself from Tripoli.

Col. Qadhafi appears recently to be courting better relations with Moscow without aggravating Libya's generally bad relations with the West. During the Gulf crisis, he condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait as well as the allied military operations to free Kuwait.

Without naming names, Col. Qadhafi criticised some Arab countries for forming alliances that were "splitting the Arab League into two."

"I am against axes and against meetings that include... foreign ministers of a group of Arab countries who have started to meet regularly," he said.

"There would have been no aggression if there were a pan-Arab unity... because there

(Continued on page 2)

Israeli jets raid Fateh camp

SIDON (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes blasted a Palestinian camp in South Lebanon Sunday and police said four people were wounded.

The raid came hours after the Lebanese Army said it dismantled two rockets just two hours before they were set to be fired on Israel from South Lebanon.

Police said four Israeli jets and two attack helicopter gunships fired six rockets in three runs against a Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) base near the village of Roumine in Iqim Al Touhah. The base belonged to the PLO group Fateh.

Smoke and dust shrouded the hilltop target in the region that overlooks a self-designated "security zone" Israel occupies in South Lebanon. Police said four vehicles were burned.

The Israeli military command said its warplanes destroyed a vehicles depot belonging to guerrilla organisations and returned safely.

Lebanese troops ringed Roumine after the 15-minute raid that began at 12:20 (1020 GMT), banning reporters and photographers from immediately reaching the woods where surviving guerrillas took shelter.

Parts of the province southeast of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, are still held by Palestinian guerrillas despite the recent deployment of the Lebanese to stabilise the volatile region.

Military sources and witnesses said Lebanese troops fired heavy machineguns at the planes but none was known to have been hit.

It was the first shooting by troops at Israeli planes since the

(Continued on page 5)

Israel renews closure of universities

SEMINARY occupies Arab Jerusalem buildings

JOCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities eased the curfew on the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday for the longest time since the start of the Gulf war, but it renewed closure orders for four Palestinian universities.

Strict restrictions were kept on Palestinians entering Israel to work, and a Hebrew newspaper reported authorities intended to cut in half the number of Palestinians who worked in the Jewish state before the war.

Israel clamped a curfew on the Palestinians in the occupied territories at the start of the war, fearing pro-Iraqi demonstrations.

It has since relaxed the curfews which confine Palestinians to homes — but kept most residents of Gaza and the West Bank from

jobs in Israel.

Sunday's move in Gaza lifts limits curfews to between 8 p.m. and 4 p.m. (1800-0200GMT), which was the situation before the Gulf war started Jan. 17. In the West Bank, most areas were opened from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There was no explanation for the difference in the two areas, but the West Bank is harder to control because of its larger population — about one million — and greater area.

Also Sunday, the military government renewed closure orders for three West Bank universities and one in Gaza, despite appeals from human rights groups to reopen the institutions.

Israel shut all six universities in the occupied territories soon after the Palestinian uprising began in

December 1987, claiming they were "hotbeds" of anti-Israeli activity. The move cut off classes for about 18,000 students.

Bethlehem and Al Quds universities were reopened last summer. But the four others, with about 75 per cent of Palestinian enrollment, are still closed.

The closure was extended Sunday for three more months at the West Bank's Bir-Zeit, Hebron and Al Najah universities and the Islamic University in Gaza.

Meanwhile, leaders of the three-year uprising issued a leaflet Sunday praising Iraq.

Jewish religious students waving Israeli flags have occupied an empty building in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. Student from the Ateret Cohanim theological seminary took

possession over the weekend of two empty buildings which the seminary said it had purchased in 1988.

Ateret Cohanim and other seminaries have been quietly buying land in the Old City inhabited centuries by Muslims and Christians, and waiting for an opportune time to move in.

Ateret Cohanim's name appeared recently on a list of three seminaries that received \$3.75 million from the housing ministry, apparently to buy additional property.

In a short statement the seminary said it was occupying two buildings it "legally" owned.

Ateret Cohanim generated controversy a year ago by buying a "long-term lease" from an Armenian tenant and moving Jewish settlers into St. John's

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Arafat: War strengthened Palestine cause

MADRID (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in an interview published Sunday the Gulf war had strengthened the Palestinian cause.

Asked if the war had damaged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), he told the Spanish newspaper El Mundo: "No, on the contrary, it has shown that the first cause of the Middle East is the Palestine cause."

Mr. Arafat said the United States and Europe, which had rejected Iraq's attempts to link the issue of Kuwait with Palestine, now realised there could be no Middle East peace until the Palestinian issue was resolved.

The PLO chairman denied that the Palestine cause was used by Iraq to try to gain Arab support. "We have never been used," he said.

He accused the United States and Israel of plotting together to build a greater Israel that would include Lebanon, Jordan, half of

Syria, most of Iraq and a third of Saudi Arabia.

"I believe the new map of the Gulf which the American administration is drawing up consists of building and founding greater Israel," he told El Mundo. "Whether they succeed or not is another matter, because the Arab Nation will resist."

He pledged that the Muslim World would never forget the U.S. intervention in the Gulf.

"It was not a question of saving Kuwait, but of destroying Iraq. This will never be forgotten. Not by the Muslims nor by the Third World," he said.

PLO voices concern

The PLO called Sunday for urgent measures to halt "aggressions, violations of rights and arrests" of Palestinians living in Kuwait.

The PLO considers that the Kuwaiti government and all Arab and international forces in

Kuwait City assume total responsibility for the protection of Palestinians," a PLO spokesman said.

Immediately after the liberation of Kuwait, the PLO expressed fears for the fate of the estimated 170,000 Palestinians now living there.

The PLO called for the adoption of urgent measures to protect Palestinians in the emirate against any vengeance by Kuwaitis but did not specify which forum should take such action.

The PLO is "concerned about safeguarding the life and security of Palestinian people who remain committed to preserving, during the most critical steps, relations of fraternity with their brothers in Kuwait and other Gulf states," the PLO said.

The Palestinian community in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion is estimated to have numbered about 350,000, according to the

PLO.

Syrian criticism

Syria meanwhile accused Mr. Arafat of betraying Kuwait, and claimed the Palestinian leader had lost all standing for supporting Iraq in the Gulf conflict.

Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas said "Yasser Arafat was wrong in his position with Saddam Hussein... he was prompted by his own personal egoism, and now, I believe, he has lost on the international scene, and he no longer has the respect of anyone."

General Tlas was speaking in an interview broadcast Saturday by the "Voice of Free Iraq," an Iraqi opposition radio station, and monitored in Nicosia. The station is believed to be based in Saudi Arabia.

Gen. Tlas claimed that Mr. Arafat has "always fiddled and dithered in disputes between Arabs."

ICRC priority to medicine, hospitals, water in Iraq effort

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Priority is given to medicine and hospital equipment as well as water sanitation in assistance extended by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Iraq and the ICRC plans to send at least two convoys every week across the border from Jordan, a senior ICRC official said Saturday.

"Right now our target is hospitals," said Werner Caspar, chief delegate of the Red Cross in Jordan. He said a convoy of trucks which left early Saturday for Iraq contained medicine, diesel generators and fuel and spare parts of water sanitation equipment and some food.

"The most important thing to do is to get the hospitals operative and for this we need power generators," Mr. Caspar said. "Equally important is drinking water and we are now giving priority to these areas before turning to food."

Shortage of medicine and contaminated water are two major problems which have raised fears of epidemics, particularly in Baghdad, a city with a pre-war population of four million.

Reports from the Iraqi capital indicate that for thousands of people the only source of water was the River Tigris, whose water was reported to have been contaminated in the first week of the allied bombing campaign which began Jan. 17.

Mr. Caspar said 96 Algerian volunteer doctors and para-

medics and 14 ICRC delegates were accompanying the convoy which left Saturday.

"We are planning to send at least two convoys every week to Iraq at this point," he said. ICRC supplies to Iraq will also continue from Iran.

The Red Cross will also be sending mobile "water lines" to purify water in the next convoy. One unit of the mobile purification plant arrived in Iraq Saturday through Iran. The equipment was sent by the European Community (EC).

In the meantime, Jordanian charitable and voluntary organisations are also contributing to the relief effort in Iraq.

Hundreds of people through the Iraqi embassy in Amman every day seeking embassy endorsement of documents allowing relief supplies' entry to Iraq.

"It is our duty to help our Iraqi brethren," said an elderly man from Zarqa as he produced a sheaf of papers across the window at the Iraqi embassy indicating that one of the voluntary societies in the northern town was sending a truckload of mineral water.

Another organisation from Irbid was sending foodstuff — mostly canned hominos and phool as well as bread. "We have already sent eight truckloads of food and we hope to send at least 20 other trucks in the next two weeks," said Mohammad Qasem.

"All the drivers are volunteers and truckowners are offering their vehicles free of cost," he told the Jordan Times outside the embassy.

As an embassy official returned the endorsed documents, one could hear him call out the names of organisations and societies from all over the Kingdom, including some from Karak and Maan as well as Aqaba.

All relief supplies to Iraq are sent in coordination with the Jordanian Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and a national committee.

Renters adda from Baghdad: Senior relief agency officials said Sunday it could be at least two weeks before they could assess damage from the air raids and work out an emergency programme.

"It's a country of 18 million people and we don't yet know to what extent vital installations were destroyed and how quickly certain areas can be repaired," Andreas Wigger, chief ICRC delegate, said in an interview.

"It is certain that there will be a large programme for a lot of organisations," he told Reuters.

Mr. Wigger said the ICRC was seeking Iraqi permission to send health workers and other staff to provincial areas to assess needs.

Surveys so far have been limited to Baghdad, where an ICRC sanitation engineer met water authority officials last week.

A joint mission of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has also visited the Iraqi capital.



Irbid volunteers Sunday load vehicles with bread destined for Iraq (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

"We are still in the process of ascertaining what is needed and then once we consolidate good data we can act rapidly," said Ezio Gianni Murzi, UNICEF's permanent representative to Baghdad.

He said there was already a clear need for drinking water, powdered baby milk or alternatives and vaccines against the main killer diseases.

"Vaccine programmes have come to a virtual halt," he said.

Electricity and most clean water supplies stopped in Baghdad after air raids on utility plants began.

Baghdad Radio said Saturday that electricity should be restored to parts of the capital during the hours of darkness from Sunday night. It said all the city would get power after dark within seven days.

Cheney sees greater U.S. presence in post-war Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Saturday the United States may keep an aircraft carrier battle group in the Gulf region after the war and maintain a "more robust air presence" there.

Mr. Cheney said U.S. fighter aircraft could be "rotating through on a regular basis" if Gulf states agree to such a plan.

He said the United States was, however, not interested in a "large, permanent, long-term U.S. ground presence" in the region.

But in a television interview, Mr. Cheney said few security measures are needed in the region and that Gulf states, once cool to contact with the United States, would welcome a more active military presence.

"We've crossed a significant threshold there," Mr. Cheney said.

He said it would be possible to have an aircraft carrier group in the Gulf "on a regular basis."

Mr. Cheney also said he expects to have plans in place "within the next week or two" for the withdrawal of the half-million U.S. troops in the Gulf.

Mr. Cheney signalled for the first time that the removal of the U.S. troops may be shorter than the seven-month buildup that put them in place.

"It will take less time than it did when it started," he said.

Mr. Cheney said that once a unit-by-unit timetable for pulling troops out of the Gulf was in place, it could be implemented "almost immediately."

Mr. Cheney said Secretary of State James A. Baker will be focusing on postwar security during his upcoming visit to the Gulf. But he warned that while U.S. relations with Gulf states will be much closer than in the past, it will be up to leaders of the Arab states to take the lead.

"We do not want to impose ourselves in a way that is politically objectionable," Mr. Cheney said.

He also said the United States' victory over Iraq does not mean that it must always resort to force in order to settle international difficulties.

"It would be a mistake for us to operate as if we have a dog in every fight — we don't," he said. On other Gulf-related matters, Mr. Cheney said:

"Iraq still is in a position to deploy some infantry forces in order to protect its own borders and the allies believe it still has some missiles and launchers left. The war could not have been won without the active involvement of women in many roles, including those that put them in harm's way. Mr. Cheney said he expected more jobs to open up to women, even though they are barred from combat.

"The definition of what constitutes a combat role has eroded and I would expect the role of women will continue to expand," Mr. Cheney said.

Qadhafi

(Continued from page 1) wouldn't be something called Kuwait and another called Iraq."

"The Iraqi people would not have suffered that much, humiliated and taken the burden of this tragedy if Arab oil was fairly distributed," he added.

Col. Qadhafi criticised Iran for what he said was its failure to deliver its promise to fight American domination in the Gulf.

"Here is America coming into Iraq on the border with the Islamic Republic. Where is the Islamic Revolutionary guard which was supposed to number one million... where is the Islamic revolution?" he asked.

"Here is the great Satan (Iran's term for the United States) on Iran's border and world arrogance reaching its peak. What is Iran's position towards American control," JANA quoted him as saying.

Iraqi troops moved from borders towards Baghdad

RIYADH (AP) — Iraq is pulling two mechanised brigades from its northern borders towards Baghdad, possibly for use if fighting resumes with the allies, a military source said Sunday.

The Iraqi units had reached almost to within 100 kilometres of Baghdad, said the source, a senior allied officer. He speculated the movements were designed to "protect the regime and to counter (a possible) resurgence" in allied attacks.

Near the Kuwaiti border in southern Iraq, allied and Iraqi battlefield commanders met Sunday to craft a permanent ceasefire from the unilateral halt to allied offensive actions that U.S. President George Bush ordered Thursday.

In those talks, it was unlikely the United States would agree to immediately surrender Iraqi terri-

tory under its control, said the allied officer. Indeed, he said allied engineering teams were heading to several captured Iraqi airfields Sunday to conduct damage inspections.

"I'm not sure that we're in any great hurry to get out, and I'm not sure he's in any position to dictate that we leave," the officer said.

The officer said the movement of the two Iraqi brigades south towards Baghdad roughly coincided with the allied decision to conditionally halt offensive operations against Iraq.

One of the mechanised brigades belongs to Iraq's Republican Guard. They are considered Iraq's best-trained forces.

The officer said the army is unlikely to bring these units into Baghdad itself.

Algeria tells Le Monde reporter to leave country

ALGIERS (AP) — Algeria has ordered the correspondent for the French newspaper Le Monde to leave the country following an article he wrote alleging that the country was approached for asylum by Saddam Hussein.

The Foreign Ministry said the article, published in the Friday edition of the daily, amounted to disinformation.

The ministry had denied the allegations immediately after publication, calling the article by Georges Marion a fabrication.

A ministry statement issued Saturday said accreditation for Mr. Marion was being withdrawn.

The statement, carried by the official APS news agency, expressed regret at the measure, but said the objective of the article was to tarnish "in one manner or another the interests of Algeria and its image."

It said it had "a right to expect that Mr. Marion, a confirmed professional journalist, verify the facts he reports before publishing them."

"Before such a notorious case of disinformation," the ministry said it decided with regret to withdraw his accreditation.

The article in question said that the Iraqi leader could seek exile in Algeria and that Algerian authorities only wanted guarantees that, once here, he would not be pursued for "war crimes."

He cited anonymous informed sources for his information. An Indian newspaper reported Sunday that President Saddam had wanted to seek asylum in India, but the government rejected two "secret overtures" last month.

The mass circulated Sunday Observer said "India had been one of the countries where (President Saddam) had explored the possibility of securing asylum."

Gulf oil slick much smaller than thought

BAHRAIN (R) — About two million barrels of crude spilled into the Gulf during the Gulf war, less than one fifth of the original estimate of feared pollution in the strategic waterway, Gulf oil industry sources said Sunday.

But two million barrels — the equivalent of a supertanker cargo — is still eight times the amount of crude spilled in the Exxon Valdez disaster and has already polluted dozens of beaches on the Gulf coast.

The sources said on Sunday U.S. coastguard pilots and other observers had been able to fly over polluted areas following the cessation of hostilities by the U.S.-led allies after the withdrawal of Iraq's armies from Kuwait.

Rolling smoke from hundreds of burning Kuwaiti oil wells last week obscured much of the northern Gulf from the air and putting out those fires is a major problem in itself.

Military officials in the U.S.-led coalition had released almost no data on spills over the war zone. Poor coordination among clean-up organisations had hampered progress in tackling the pollution, the oil sources said.

"There were no proper steps taken to map it, or track it, despite the fact we (the coalition) had air superiority since Jan. 17," said one Gulf-based oil industry manager.

The U.S.-led coalition on Jan. 25 accused Iraq of purposely releasing oil into the Gulf from tankers and oil plants in Kuwait.

Iraq countered that the pollution was created by allied bombing.

Saudi oil officials had predicted the spill could be as large as 11 million barrels, more than three times the worst spill, recorded in 1979 into the Gulf of Mexico.

Some crude has evaporated but some heavy brown residues mixed with sea water have sunk to the bottom or washed up on beaches.

These residues are the main threat, but they are also floating around in much larger areas of "sheen," a silvery to rainbow coloured residue which is not as thick, they said.

The main disaster area is all the way down the Saudi coast from the Kuwaiti border, as far as Jubail, they said.

Millions of marine creatures may have died in the sluggish brown tides which have washed ashore. The coastal sea is also a prime breeding ground for fish, shrimp, and plants which form the base of the Gulf's marine food chain.

Dead sea cows and turtles have been washed up and thousands of birds covered in crude had died as well.

Saudi researchers believe there is about 1.5 million barrels of oil in this group of slicks.

The oil sources estimated it could be as low as 500,000 to one million barrels after evaporation, but because the oil could now be about 50 per cent mixed with sea water, the 1.5 million was possibly the amount that would need to be cleaned.

A small part of this oil was from tanks at the Saudi town of Ras Al Khafji which were hit by artillery fire during the war, but most was from tankers, and oil plant at the Kuwaiti town of Mina Al Ahmadi, they said.

Pilots had also seen a much smaller slick possibly around 100 metres wide by 3.5 kilometres long to the south of Kuwait's Bubiyan Island.

This seemed to come from tankers at Iraq's port of Mina Al Bakr, the sources said.

Text of Security Council Resolution 686

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of a resolution adopted by the Security Council later Saturday setting terms for a definitive end to hostilities between a U.S.-led coalition and Iraq:

The Security Council, RECALLING and reaffirming its resolutions 660 (1990), 661 (1990), 662 (1990), 664 (1990), 665 (1990), 666 (1990), 667 (1990), 669 (1990), 670 (1990), 674 (1990), 677 (1990), and 678 (1990),

RECALLING the obligations of member states under article 25 of the charter,

RECALLING paragraph 9 of Resolution 661 (1990) regarding assistance to the government of Kuwait and paragraph 3 (C) of that resolution regarding supplies strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs,

TAKING note of the letters of foreign minister of Iraq confirming Iraq's agreement to comply fully with all of the resolutions noted above (S/22275), and stating its intention to release prisoners of war immediately (S/22273),

TAKING note of the suspension of offensive combat operations by the forces of Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990),

BEARING in mind the need to be assured of Iraq's peaceful intentions, and the objective in Resolution 678 (1990) of restoring international peace and security in the region,

UNDERLINING the importance of Iraq taking the necessary measures which would permit a definitive end to the hostilities,

AFFIRMING the commitment of all member states to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and Kuwait, and noting the intention expressed by the member states cooperating under paragraph 2 of Security

Council Resolution 678 (1990) to bring their military presence in Iraq to an end as soon as possible consistent with achieving the objectives of the resolution,

Acting under chapter VII of the charter,

1. Affirms that all twelve resolutions noted above continue to have full force and effect;

2. Demands that Iraq implement its acceptance of all twelve resolutions noted above and in particular that Iraq:

A. Rescind immediately its actions purporting to annex Kuwait;

B. Accept in principle its liability under international law for any loss, damage, or injury arising in regard to Kuwait and third states, and their nationals and corporations, as a result of the invasion and illegal occupation of Kuwait by Iraq;

C. Immediately release under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Red Crescent societies, or Red Crescent societies, all Kuwaiti and third country nationals detained by Iraq and return the remains of any deceased Kuwaiti and third country nationals so detained; and

D. Immediately begin to return all Kuwaiti property seized by Iraq, to be completed in the shortest possible period;

3. Further demands that Iraq:

A. Cease hostile or provocative actions by its forces against all member states, including missile attacks and flights of combat aircrafts;

B. Designate military commanders to meet with counterparts from the forces of Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990) to arrange for the military aspects of a cessation of hostilities at the earliest possible time;

C. Arrange for immediate

access to and release of all prisoners of war under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and return the remains of any deceased personnel of the forces of Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990); and

D. Provide all information and assistance in identifying Iraqi mines, booby traps and other explosives as well as any chemical or biological weapons and material in Kuwait, in areas of Iraq where forces of member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990) are present temporarily, and in the adjacent waters;

4. Recognises that during the period required for Iraq to comply with paragraphs 2 and 3 above, the provisions of paragraph 2 of Resolution 678 (1990) remain valid;

5. Welcomes the decision of Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990) to provide access and to commence immediately the release of Iraqi prisoners of war as required by the terms of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

6. Requests all member states, as well as the United Nations, the specialised agencies and other international organisations in the United Nations system, to take all appropriate action to cooperate with the government and people of Kuwait in the reconstruction of their country;

7. Decides that Iraq shall notify the secretary-general and the Security Council when it has taken the actions set out above;

8. Decides that in order to secure the rapid establishment of a definitive end to the hostilities, the Security Council remains actively seized of the matter.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian judge postpones verdict on attacks

CAIRO (AP) — Because of security reasons, the verdict in the case of 20 men accused of attacks against Israeli and American diplomats was postponed to April 2, a judge said Sunday. Judge Enad Eddin Ismail of the supreme state security court had been scheduled Sunday to issue his verdict on alleged members of a group called Egypt's Revolution who include the eldest son of the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser. State security prosecutor Abdul Meguid Mahanoud told the court that prison authorities could not transport the imprisoned defendants to the court room before 4 p.m. (0200 GMT) Sunday because of "security circumstances." Only a handful of the defendants — those who are out on bail — were present in their cages. They included Khaled Gamal Abdul Nasser, a 40-year-old engineer and professor at Cairo University. The prosecutor did not elaborate on the security problems. President Hosni Mubarak gave a nationally broadcast speech Sunday morning and security was increased in the streets along his route, including Salah Salem Road where the court is situated.

Iran clerics say Rushdie sentence stands

NICOSIA (R) — Two leading Iranian clerics called Saturday for the decree ordering the killing of British author Salman Rushdie to be carried out. "God willing, that command will be carried out and consequently give the world a significant shock," said Ayatollah Abdul Karim Musavi-Ardebili. Iranian television said he was speaking at a conference in Tehran on interpreting the edict of the late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. In February 1989, Ayatollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill Rushdie for blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses." Bombay-born Rushdie in December renewed his faith in Islam and disavowed anti-Muslim sentiments by characters in his book. He appealed to Muslim governments and religious leaders to forgive him so he could emerge from hiding in Britain. But Iranian clerical groups meeting last month offered no hope the decree would be lifted.

CBS TV crew arrive in Britain after being freed in Baghdad

LONDON (Agencies) — Four CBS television newsmen arrived in Britain Sunday after being freed from 41 days of Iraqi captivity and went straight into hospital for two to three days of medical checks. A spokesman in the television network's London office said Bob Simon, Peter Bluff, Roberto Alvarez and Juan Caldera arrived from Amman aboard a chartered executive jet at Biggin Hill airport south of London. The four were released in Baghdad Saturday. They had been picked up by an Iraqi army patrol on the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on Jan. 21, four days after the start of the Gulf war. CBS Vice-president Donna Decesara told reporters in Baghdad Saturday that the four had been "interrogated closely" by Iraqi authorities on why they were in a military area. "They're all in good spirits... they look in fairly good shape... but they're looking very tired," the spokesman said on Sunday. For Bluff, a Briton, the journey home was over. The other three will be returning to America after the hospital checks.

PRAYER TIMES

06:41 Fajr
05:53 (Sunrise) Duha
11:48 Dhuhr
15:08 'Asr
17:57 Maghrib
18:54 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Chyrch Swetich Tel. 810740
Assobles of God Church, Tel. 627285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terremans Church Tel. 622266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 621541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be warm and partly cloudy. In Aqaba, it will be dusty.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	7 / 30
Aqaba	15 / 27
Deserts	5 / 22
Jordan Valley	15 / 26

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Ashour 886993
Dr. Adel Ammani 812148
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid 677436
Dr. Tayseer Khadre 606857
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nabrook pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Aymen Abul Hajja (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy 275825

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 843402
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akhel Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Ibn Al-Nafies Maternity 636140
Madha, J. Amman 661171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustashar Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marata 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 02240450
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986752

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Muhajreen) 450 / 400
Beans 580 / 520

Cabbage 100 / 60
Carrot 400 / 350
Cauliflower 220 / 180
Cucumber (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 250
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant 180 / 120
Garlic 1400 / 1300
Grapefruit 200 / 150

London 200 / 150
Marrow (large) 140 / 9

Jordan Times

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Nation and its future: Democracy's the answer

AS THE international community is busy searching for a new international order, the Arab World should be equally interested in articulating its own new order in the aftermath of the Gulf catastrophe. The Arab countries and their peoples share many aspirations and enjoy several common, unbreakable ties. There is every justification to formulate a set of new ground rules to govern inter-Arab relations especially in the wake of the failure of the old rules to contain a crisis of the size of the Gulf conflict and resolve it without foreign interference and any sort of bloodshed. There is no other place to begin than from within each and every Arab country. The process has to start with the introduction of operational democracy to every state of the Arab World. Whether it takes the form of a shura council or parliamentary system of government, the main point remains that without consultations with the representatives of the people, there will always be room for wrong decisions that could deal fatal blows to Arabs and their interests everywhere. In retrospect, the failure of inter-Arab dialogue and communication over the Kuwait case can be traced directly to the absence of democratic institutions in the Arab countries. Likewise, the wrong decisions taken by many Arab states vis-a-vis that situation can equally be attributed to the lack of effective democratic systems of government in the countries that were most directly involved in the debacle.

Jordan has been blessed with a thriving democracy ever since the national elections of 1989. The country will enter the threshold of a new era in democratic development when the National Charter is adopted and endorsed by the people in the immediate future. Granted that democracy in the country is still in its infancy stage and that there is a great deal more to be done in order to perfect it before Jordan can be sure of the institutionalisation of its experiment. Nevertheless a beginning has been launched and it has been a promising one. On the foundation of this new beginning a lot more can be expected to be constructed in due course. Jordan's Arab neighbours stand to profit from our experience in this regard. But what is needed, above all, is a realisation by Arabs and non-Arabs alike that the Arab World is not the exclusive property of persons and regimes. Rather, it is the collective will of our masses and peoples that has to be the only source of government, and power in this part of the world.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

PERHAPS the new era in inter-Arab relations is the most difficult to date. It is that the Arabs are divided and their economies are faltering, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The paper said that the Arab states ought to thwart enemy plans aiming at maintaining such a situation in the Arab World and aborting Israel's drive to maintain occupation of Arab land, so that the Arabs can by no means raise their voices demanding a solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. In his address to the nation last week, the King was keen to call for a reconciliation among the Arabs so that the future can be constructed with confidence and with serious thought about the future generations, the paper noted. It said should the Arabs remain in disarray, Israel would find its golden opportunity to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land and continue its repression against the Palestinian people. In the face of all those dangers, the Arab leaders shoulder a serious responsibility towards their nation and towards saving the future of their countries from the common enemies, said the paper. Healing of the wounds and ending the divisions among the Arabs states, said Al Ra'i, should be number one priority because it added the dismemberment of the Arab World is Israel's first priority. The paper called on the Arabs to do everything in their power to overcome the differences and embark on reconstruction.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that it is time for the U.N. Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq for occupying Kuwait now that the Iraqi troops have pulled out from the Gulf emirate; and it is time for the western countries to stop tampering with Iraq's security and interfering in Iraq's internal affairs if the Gulf region is to enjoy security and stability. The paper said that now that the Kuwaiti government has been reinstated, and the Kuwaiti people returned home, there is no justification for the United States and its allies to retain forces in the Gulf. The Soviet Union and China have been very lenient with the United States, France and Britain, and have allowed the western powers to exercise their aggression on Iraq, and it is now time for Moscow and Peking to stop all blackmail exercised by the West on the Arab countries, the paper demanded. The paper also called on the Security Council to refrain from approving U.S. resolutions which are considered harmful to the Arab Nation and an infringement on the U.N. organisation's authority. It said that Iraq has accepted the council resolutions, responding favourably to Moscow's call and Moscow's promises that everything will end once Baghdad gave its favourable response. The major powers of the world and the U.N. both shoulder a heavy responsibility towards re-establishing peace in the post war era.

Pentagon planners outline key military role in Kuwait recovery

EDITOR'S NOTE: An unclassified Pentagon document obtained by Pacific News Service detailed an extensive role for U.S. military forces in Kuwait's recovery for as long as five years. Planners also projected civilian casualties of up to 25 per cent of Kuwait's population; martial law conditions for up to one year; and harsh security measures aimed particularly at "stay-behind Palestinians and Iraqis" who are described as potential terrorists. PNS editor Sandy Close and associate editor Dennis Bernstein prepared this report on the document. Sam Sternberg, a veteran writer on intelligence affairs, also contributed to this report.

U.S. military forces will assume full control over Kuwait affairs for up to three months following its liberation, according to an unclassified Pentagon document detailing plans for Kuwait's post-war reconstruction. Despite the absence of U.N. mandate authorising such a role, U.S. forces will then assist the government of Kuwait (GOK) in the country's rehabilitation for up to five years and even longer.

The document, obtained by Pacific News Service, projects an enormous toll in Kuwaiti casualties from the ground war. Planners estimate that "the number of killed or injured in a conflict scenario could exceed 25 per cent of Kuwait's population (estimated at 800,000)."

The 200-page document also states the martial law measures will be in effect during an emergency phase of up to three months but could be extended by the GOK for up to one year. It contains no mention of plans to expand democratisation in Kuwait during its reconstruction. Instead, even after martial law is lifted, planners assume that all political restrictions that existed prior to the war — including a 1976 press law banning criticism of the Emir — will be restored.

The brutal of tough security measures both during and after the emergency phase will be borne by Palestinians and other "expatriates" who accounted for as much as 61 per cent of Kuwait's pre-war population. The document in several sections equates "stay-behind Palestinians" with Iraqis and states that terrorist activity is expected from both groups.

The document, issued by the 352nd Civil Affairs Command now based in Riyadh, was compiled by teams of military planners working in consultation with

officials of the GOK between the first week of November and January 16 (the latest date entered in the report). A spokesman for the Command, reached by phone in Riyadh, would neither confirm nor deny the existence of the document.

Dry, full of charts, maps, graphs, tables, the document's 26 appendices cover every imaginable reconstruction need from burying the dead to caring for the wounded, from repairing the airport and restoring the flow of oil to the capture of subversives and the guarding of government documents. Section after section details requirements for the number of chairs, desks, English and Arabic typewriters, types of computers and software, staples and scotch tape — even the number of daily calories to be provided each Kuwaiti resident. Also itemised are the numbers of nurses, doctors, morticians, and specialists in police, fire, psychological and intelligence operations needed to get Kuwait back on its feet.

U.S. military planners want the Kuwait media to abstain from "criticism of the Emir, quoting from the Emir without his permission; publishing information affecting the value of national currency or creating misgivings about the Kuwait economy; criticising other Arab leaders."

A careful reading of the appendices, however, highlights several problem areas that will go beyond logistics and will inevitably present a mix of political, economic and human rights issues for post-war Kuwait.

First and foremost is meeting the health care needs of the surviving population. After one week of ground war, Pentagon planners are prepared to find some 40,000 dead civilians, 100,000 wounded and 42,000 sick, and virtually no functional medical facilities. "Long term

and tertiary care for non-combatants in Kuwait will be difficult if not impossible during the emergency period," it states. "Evacuation of seriously ill, injured to medical care in hospitals outside the country may be essential to save lives."

The document goes on to state that while the GOK has standing contracts with extramural hospitals in the Gulf, "they do not plan to fund such medical care for non-citizens." Presumably, that care will be left to private voluntary agencies, the U.N., the International Committee of the Red Cross, all acting under the supervision of U.S. forces. But even citizens may not receive timely care because plans only call for air transport for up to 150 patients per day.

If the ground war lasts longer than a week, the report predicts "the general level of the population's health will be severely degraded by stress, lack of medical care, war and severe diarrhea." With 40 per cent of Kuwait's population under the age of 15, the report noted that "large numbers of children may be lost."

To restore and maintain security in liberated Kuwait, the report calls for the creation of a Kuwait security force of up to 10,000. It adds that "use of U.S. military, security and safety equipment may be required in the short term and in the intermediate term as well."

During the initial emergency phase all residents of Kuwait will be issued identity cards and screened for interrogation. Camps will be constructed to provide housing for displaced civilians and to separate out prisoners of war, Iraqis and other "potential terrorists" who have remained behind.

Even after the emergency phase is over, the report notes that the GOK will "impose martial law, using emergency legislation, for a period of up to a year." War crimes will be prosecuted in

Kuwaiti tribunals "conducted by personnel from GOK public safety and security agencies with assistance from allied personnel."

Under an appendix titled Telecommunications/Public Communications, the document details plans for imposing total press censorship and control until the end of the emergency period. "Broadcasting (will be) limited to Government of Kuwait-owned or operated stations," the report states.

Throughout the reconstruction phase, the Kuwait media — described as one of the liveliest and freest in the region prior to the war — will revert to restrictions defined by the 1976 press law. These specifically ban "criticism of the Emir; quoting from the Emir without his permission; publishing information affecting the value of national currency or creating misgivings about the Kuwait economy; criticising other Arab leaders."

The most sweeping structural changes described in the report have to do with Kuwait's banking and business sectors. "Senior Kuwaiti officials intend to restructure the financial system," the report states. "This is a very sensitive political decision because the prominent merchant families are linked through the interlocking ownership of these institutions. The Palestinians virtually controlled the banking system."

The goal of financial restructuring, the report suggests, is an economy that will be more tightly controlled by the ruling minority, to the detriment of the Palestinian expatriate population.

The document states that a new currency will be introduced but emphasises that this will occur only after all residents are issued new ID cards. Palestinians, it warns, will push for the currency reform to be implemented prior to the issuance of ID cards.

The document's most detailed plans are for putting out oil well fires. As early as Nov. 8, the day Washington announced increased troop deployments in the Gulf, Pentagon planners were calling for the completion of contracts already being negotiated with the world's four companies capable of dousing oil field fires.

Israel prepares for future wars

The following article is reprinted from the Feb. 22 issue of the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Yitzhak Rabin

THE GULF war is unique, and so one has to be extremely careful in drawing any conclusions from it.

First, we had a warning period of five months before hostilities erupted — an unbelievable luxury for those who remember the surprise of Yom Kippur 1973. Second, while the IDF hasn't fired a single bullet so far, the home front is having to absorb missile attacks, which have caused damage and casualties.

A miracle has occurred in the Gulf war: Others are doing our job for us, and at this stage, the price we are having to pay is minimal. For now, as far as we are concerned, this is a "deluxe war." Future wars, I fear, will be far harder and more painful. Anyone who has sensed the vast amounts and variety of weapons in the hands of Arab countries, can guess what will happen if we are caught up in a war.

During the Yom Kippur War, the General Headquarters of the Syrian army in the heart of Damascus was hit. In the wake of the attack, the Syrians came to the correct conclusion that they wouldn't be able to hit the Israeli home front with air raids. Thus, since 1975, they have been deploying surface-to-surface Scud missiles, to enable them to hit the Israeli home front without needing to cross the border and jeopardise pilots and planes.

Since the early 1980s, Syria has been systematically deploying Scud missiles, with the addition of SS-21 surface-to-surface missiles, which has a shorter range (80 kilometres) but is far more accurate; they are capable of hitting military targets such as army bases and airstrips. Over the years, the Syrians have improved their missile deployments, adding chemical warheads; they now possess missile attack capabilities several times more dangerous than those of Iraq. Anyone who chooses not to be aware of these facts has a serious problem.

An effective defence against surface-to-surface missiles has yet to be found. Before they are launched, they are hidden in underground bunkers, and it is extremely difficult to hit them.

They need to be outside for only a short time before launching, after which they are returned to the bunkers. No weapon has yet been invented which can reliably intercept a missile after launching.

Because of all this, it is clear that the IDF must be prepared for war — primarily to deter any Arab country from initiating a war against Israel and, should this deterrent fail, to defeat the enemy quickly. Why quickly? Among other reasons, because as long as the war continues, there is no certainty that the home front will not be hit by surface-to-surface missiles.

The threat of such missiles being used against Israel became more serious in 1988, when the Iraqis employed Scud missiles against Tehran, causing severe casualties and damage. When the Iraqis increased the Scud missile rate to 600 kilometres, it became clear that anyone who can send a missile from Iraq to Tehran can send one to Tel Aviv. In the same year, Saudi Arabia also received long-range surface-to-surface missiles from China. Three Arab countries now have the ability to launch surface-to-surface missiles: Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

What have we got to defend ourselves against these missiles? A great deal. Israel has the ability to retaliate devastatingly, inflicting massive damage on any Arab capital. This can be done by the air force. Arab leaders are well aware of this, and we have made quite sure they know it via the media.

The fact is that Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia have not initiated a war against Israel. Our powers of deterrence have prevented this since the Yom Kippur War, despite Arab missile-launching capabilities. As far as we are concerned, the most important front is Syria, because we share a border, and because Syria has the ability to start a conclusive war against us, one including the use of planes and missiles.

Our deterrents worked in the case of Iraq as well — which is why it chose to attack Kuwait and not Israel. Iraq has been launching Scud missiles against Israel since it was attacked by the vast forces of the U.S. and the international coalition, but this has been with the aim of dragging us into the war rather than defeating us.

As part of our preparations for

combating surface-to-surface missiles, we initiated an agreement with the Americans over the development of the Arrow anti-missile missile. I signed the agreement with then-Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger in 1987, as part of the Star Wars programme. We were the first country in the world to enter the field of missiles against tactical missiles.

This wasn't all. In June 1987, a short time after the Scud attacks on Tehran, I went to the U.S. in search of solutions to the problems we were facing as a result of this new state of affairs.

I requested and was granted a special visit to the Patriot anti-aircraft missile battery in Huntsville, Alabama. The senior commanders of the Air Defence and Patriot batteries, as well as representatives of Raytheon, which manufactures the Patriot, were present at the in-depth meetings. The Americans were asked to come up with a programme for protecting Israel against surface-to-surface missiles, even though we were aware of the fact that the Patriot was not built to intercept missiles. The American representatives did not have a method for intercepting missiles.

Around that time, the Americans began upgrading and improving the Patriot missile, giving it the abilities we know today. Even now, however, it is not a fool-proof defence against missiles. We also applied ourselves to developing a weapon capable of destroying surface-to-surface missiles before they are launched. For obvious reasons, I cannot go into detail.

What else must we do? We must prepare the home front.

Preparation of the home front began in the War of Independence, in 1948, when sandbags were placed outside shelters in order to protect civilian populations. The concept became official policy in 1951, with the Law of Civil Protection, by which a shelter must be built in every building in the country. In 1965, it was ordered that each private and public body must build its own shelters. This has been enforced almost totally since 1969. Even so, there are thousands of old houses in Israel in which it is impossible to build shelters. Large amounts of money were thus allocated for the building of public shelters in old neighbourhoods. In recent years, Hagia has allocated money to help turn

underground car parks into sophisticated shelters. An example is the one under the new Tel Aviv central bus station, which can hold 17,000 people.

Seventeen thousand people in one shelter? Why?

We have known for several years that every civilian now knows that Israel has no warning system against missile attacks. For such a system we need satellites, and for satellites we need billions of dollars. We don't have billions of dollars, and so, for the time being, we don't have satellites. On the other hand, the Americans have special satellites which can detect missiles' launches anywhere in the world. It is thanks to these U.S. satellites that we now have five minutes' warning to go into our sealed rooms or shelters.

But, and this is the brutal truth: In another war, without American satellites, we would have no warning, or a minute's warning at the most. It is perfectly possible that surface-to-surface missiles could explode in the heart of population centres without a siren being sounded.

What would we do? In a serious situation of that kind, there would be only one thing to do: put all civilians who haven't been called up for military service into shelters and protected houses for a relatively long period and strive to defeat the enemy as quickly as possible, in order to wipe out the threat of missile attacks. This is why the central bus station shelter was built. If war broke out, 17,000 residents of southern Tel Aviv could seek refuge there for the entire duration of the war.

Over the years, all our resources, funds and efforts have been devoted to developing the IDF's attack forces — planes, tanks, artillery and others. All these could help finish a war quickly and decisively, in order to neutralise, among other things, the threat of missile attacks on civilians.

Of course, one could disagree with the defence policy we have followed since the establishment of the state. We could have invested everything we have in shelters, gas masks and atropine syringes. But as a former defence minister responsible for policy and its enforcement, I haven't the slightest doubt that we did everything possible to prepare a proper attack force — and that we were right.

Weekly Political Pulse

Now that Kuwait is liberated, liberate Palestine

By Waleed Sadi

NOW that the Gulf war is behind us, and the Gulf crisis is on the verge of resolution, the screws will be tightened against the allied powers to deliver on their moral commitment to settle the other simmering conflicts in the Middle East. Israel is beginning to feel the heat and is bracing itself for a long haul of political and possibly economic pressure to accommodate Washington and its allies and vindicate their posture throughout the Gulf crisis. Clearly Damascus is awaiting early returns on its support to the anti-Iraqi coalition and probably has already received assurances that the Golan Heights are once again negotiable. Tel Aviv will be equally pressed to negotiate over the West Bank and Gaza strip. The Iraqi Scud missile attacks on it throughout the Gulf war has proved beyond a shadow of doubt that Israel's security does not lie in territory and in holding on to Arab lands but rather in something much more comprehensive and lasting. Israel's long held view that it needs Arab territory to ensure its security has thus become baseless. Riyadh, Cairo and Kuwait are also projected to act forcefully in the direction of resolving the entire Arab-Israeli conflicts including the Palestinian question if for no reason other than to prove that the horse that they betted on is a winner all the way. Having sided so openly with the Western alliance against the mainstream of public Arab thought and feelings, such Arab states will probably wish to retrieve some of the losses that they had incurred with their respective peoples and elsewhere in the Arab World by showing that the way to an effective resolution of the decades-old Arab-Israeli conflict lies with them and the West. The talk of the international community is once again focused on the role of the PLO in any such revitalised campaigns for a Middle East solution. The West now estimates that the PLO has lost credibility and relevancy in view of the fact it sided wholeheartedly with Baghdad over the Gulf crisis. Israel also seeks to exclude the PLO from any such futuristic negotiations over the fate of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But there is nothing new in this stance whether it comes from Tel Aviv or from Washington and its allies. What could determine this point one way or another is the position of Amman, Damascus, Riyadh and Cairo. Cairo has maintained its position on this issue during the entire Gulf crisis and termed the convening of an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflicts as still on as far as it was concerned. Saudi Arabia is not expected to renege on its past commitment to the conference idea to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts. Equally supportive of the principle of holding such a conference under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council are Moscow and Paris. In fact the two capitals have put themselves squarely on the side of holding such a forum as recently as during the final stages of the Gulf war. Jordan has of course always maintained the faithful adherence to the idea and never found cause to deviate from such a principled posture. Damascus is equally on record as accepting the principle of holding negotiations with Israel under the U.N. umbrella. Last but not least the Palestinian people have opted for the international peace conference forum also. Needless to say, the common denominator for all the countries that support the conference idea is the indispensable place of the Palestinians in it and the agreement that this prerequisite needs to find expression in the PLO.

This continuing dichotomy in positions on the role of PLO in any futuristic negotiations between the Arabs and Israel takes the world to square one as it were. The PLO leadership would need first to reestablish bridges with the capitals that can exercise effective influence on the initiation and course of such talks. This will take time of course. The PLO would probably be asked to rearticulate its negotiating position before it is accepted as a negotiating partner. One can see months if not years passing by before any real movement is achieved. All preparatory talks would most likely get bogged down over semantics and tactics. Yet if the world is sincere in getting the Palestinian case settled once and for all, it must allow the only existing spokesman for the Palestinian people to negotiate on their behalf one way or another. The PLO has therefore an important role to play in the quest for a permanent settlement of the Palestinian conflict. The minute Washington and Tel Aviv yield to this logic the sooner the world can get on with the business of solving the corner stone of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. Once negotiations on this basis appear in the horizon, a "ceasefire" can also be applied to the occupied territories in order to give a breathing space to such negotiations.

LETTERS

Protest against injustice

To the Editor

I AM from Holland and came to join the Gulf Peace Camp to protest against the war and the use of force by any side.

I am particularly concerned with the aggression of the U.N. against the Islamic culture, and so many other cultures in the world. Having a ceasefire doesn't give any guarantee for peace. Western aggression against the Islamic culture is continuing. So are intervention in Iraq, total denial of the rights of the Palestinians, and great support for Israel and its army which is not going to promote the peace processes.

Being here for the last seven weeks has given me a better understanding of the Israel-Arab conflict. The first step to peace is to give the Palestinians their right and their own state.

I feel that a movement for peace cannot deny the rights of the Palestinian people because their struggle is a struggle for humanity and this is one of the basic principles for peace.

Therefore I regret that the Gulf Peace Team didn't take a clear stand about the Palestinians in the Gulf crisis (as they did when they supported the Iraqi people in their suffering).

The basic reason for the denying of the Palestinians is as far as I can see: the buildup of the Peace Team (even when it is a multi-racial team) came mostly from the U.K. and the U.S. so the support which is necessary for a peace movement lays basically in the Western part of the world, and a lot of people in these countries see the linking of Palestinians with peace as taking a side, a side which is problematic in the West. It is sad but in general in the Western media a Palestinian is a terrorist. And peace people are ordinary people who get influenced by the general opinion. Therefore my fasting will be a protest:

— Against the suffering of people in wartime in the world.
— Against the denying of the Palestinian rights by the world community.
— Against the cultural intervention of the West in the Middle East.

— Against the food sanctions of the U.N. against Iraq.

Vivian Kratzer
(member of Gulf Peace Team)
Amman.

Mandela emerges as leading moderate a year after release

By Rich Mkhondo

Rueter

JOHANNESBURG — Nelson Mandela went to jail 28 years ago after failing to persuade South Africa's white leaders to sit down with representatives of the black majority to forge a non-racial democracy.

Now the political ground rules have changed and one year since his release the African National Congress (ANC) leader sees his dream, at last, coming close to reality.

But his statesmanship will meet its greatest test in coming months as he negotiates with the "old enemy" in Pretoria while trying to keep the loyalty of his ANC forces, impatient for a say in national government.

"As far as our political activities are concerned, I am not an individual, I am part of a team... when talking about the future, it is better to be an optimist," he said recently.

"If people expected miracles, I have no miracles," he told a news conference to sum up his year of freedom.

Despite his personal modesty,

Mandela has played a key role in changing South Africa's political landscape.

"There is no doubt Mr. Mandela should have been released... I believe he has shown no bitterness," Foreign Minister P. Botha said in parliament recently.

Mandela has travelled the world since walking out of Victor Verster prison outside Cape Town last February 11, but the acid test of his leadership has been at home.

He has had to try to quell murderous political faction fighting which has claimed thousands of lives in Johannesburg and Natal province townships, violent school boycotts and constant political bickering.

Political analysts say Mandela has emerged relatively unscathed as a pragmatic moderate, willing to put half a lifetime of suffering behind him to fulfil his dream of non-racialism.

"Mandela has emerged with immense dignity and an unshaken belief in his people's demand for justice and equality," said political scientist Gary van Staden.

"He is firmly in running the show. He is nobody's puppet, he listens to his close advisers. He executes decisions with stature," van Staden said.

Friends and political analysts say a large measure of Mandela's stature evolved from the preliminary success of the ANC's "talks about talks" with President F.W. de Klerk which aim to pave the way to full-scale constitutional negotiations.

Four months after his release, Mandela and other ANC officials held ground-breaking talks with the reformist government to discuss the obstacles to non-racial democracy.

"De Klerk and some of his ministers are serious when they say they want a change in South Africa and I deal with them on that basis," Mandela told reporters after one round of talks.

"But I am not misled by their honesty. They are honest, but I am concerned with harsh reality. And the harsh reality is that apartheid is still in place," he added.

His friends say at 72, Mandela looks well despite his punishingly

busy schedule.

He has toured most major capitals to raise funds for the ANC, to brief heads of government about reforms in South Africa and to appeal for the maintenance of sanctions until Pretoria has dismantled apartheid entirely.

Mandela says substantial progress has been made in forging relations with rival organisations such as the radical Pan Africanist Congress and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, thus helping defuse township tension.

The tentative hand of friendship extended last month to Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, his fiercest rival for black support, is another gesture boding well for future peace.

The PAC has agreed to join the ANC's latest campaign against white rule, a plan of "mass action" which includes marches, strikes and consumer boycotts.

"We have no vote. The only way we can focus attention on our grievances, when we fail to convince through persuasion and argument, is to exercise our power, to go into the streets and

demonstrate. We are going to do that," Mandela says.

He says his organisation suspects that the government deliberately stalled on the return of exiles and the release of political prisoners in a bid to incite the rank and file to rebel against ANC leader.

Despite his statesmanship, things have not always been smooth sailing for Mandela. Abroad, his appeals for the diplomatic isolation of South Africa and intensified economic sanctions have been politely rebuffed.

His call for discipline and an end to violence was followed by the most serious upsurge in riots, killings and general mayhem ever seen in the townships.

Intimidation by self-proclaimed ANC supporters of rival political organisations constantly undermines the ANC's protestations that it abides by democratic pluralism.

Mandela's pleas to angry and often terrified township residents to give negotiation a chance have been met with rising cries for revenge and a supply of arms. Mobs rampaged through South

Africa's miserable black townships, unrestrained by state authority or politicians, driven by random bloodlust and vengeance rather than ideology.

Mandela has often expressed frustration at a lack of government action while the townships blazed. He appealed publicly to de Klerk to use the army to impose order, although such a plea to the white-led security forces carried enormous political risks.

The ANC at once appeared wrenched. One minute it was accusing security of waging war on blacks, the next it was pleading with the government to deploy troops.

The average South African, black or white, has seen little more than mayhem since the "talks about talks" began, raising questions of Mandela's grasp on the ANC's grass roots.

Mandela's position will depend on his ability in the coming year to keep the differing ANC factions solidly behind him as he enters a more intricate phase of negotiation with his former foes and jailers in the white government.



Nelson Mandela

Terms

(Continued from page 1)

armoured vehicles flying the distinctive white and red flag of the Red Crescent.

The Saudi commander of Arab forces in the alliance, Lieutenant-General Prince Khalid Ben Sultan, said on emerging from the talks: "I think we should consider today as a memorable, historic day."

He and Gen. Schwarzkopf talked with an eight-man Iraqi delegation led by Lieutenant-General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, chief of operations at the Iraqi Defence Ministry, and Lieutenant-General Saleh Abdud Mahmud, the Iraqi 3rd corps commander.

They sat on opposite sides of a small wooden table in a stifling olive-green tent pitched beside the runway at Safwan inside Iraq, 10 kilometres north of its border with Kuwait.

U.S. soldiers in full-combat gear, including at least one American servicewoman, ringed the tent.

The tent was flanked by the hi-tech weaponry—Apache helicopters, M-1 tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles.

The commanders of British, French and Arab forces which joined the coalition watched as observers.

Before the talks Gen. Schwarzkopf gave orders that nothing should be done to humiliate the Iraqis.

"I don't want to embarrass anyone. I don't want to humiliate them," the general told one of his planning officers as they walked in bright morning sunshine to the talks from the helicopter that took them to the air base.

Lieutenant General Sir Peter de la Billiere, the British commander, said the atmosphere was "cold and determined" while Gen. Schwarzkopf described the exchanges as "frank and candid."

Gen. Schwarzkopf set the tone when he arrived from his headquarters at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia and told reporters: "There'll be no negotiations, only discussions."

"I'm not here to give anything. I'm here to tell them exactly what we expect them to do."

The allied terms were those laid down by U.S. President George Bush when he declared a unilateral ceasefire by the coalition Thursday.

Gen. Schwarzkopf said the Iraqis agreed, as a symbolic gesture of good faith, to immediately release surviving allied air crews shot down over Iraq during the air war that began on Jan. 17.

The Baghdad government will also return the remains of airmen killed over Iraq and provide information about those missing.

Some 40,000 Kuwaitis taken to Iraq during the occupation will be treated as prisoners of war and allowed to return.

A peace line has been drawn in occupied Iraq to ensure that inadvertent contacts do not take place between Iraqi and allied forces which could jeopardise the ceasefire.

Gen. Schwarzkopf said the coalition made clear that there would be no withdrawal from occupied territory until Baghdad signed a formal ceasefire.

Gen. De la Billiere stressed that the war could be restarted instantly if the Iraqis reneged on their commitments or tried to attack coalition forces.

"We are still in a state of hostilities and have only suspended offensive action," he told reporters.

The Iraqi delegation arrived by road from Baghdad and were met about 15 kilometres from Safwan by U.S. military vehicles.

Gen. Schwarzkopf greeted them personally and conducted them to the tent.

The Iraqis left without talking to reporters.

Gen. Schwarzkopf told a news conference:

"We have also made it very clear that upon the signing of a ceasefire, but not before, all coalition forces will be withdrawn back from Iraqi territory that they are currently occupying."

"The most important point that we discussed was the immediate release of all prisoners of war," he added. "We have agreed that this release should be immediate."

The two sides had agreed that prisoners of war should be released through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The U.N. resolution adopted Saturday notes that Iraq has accepted all 12 resolutions and says this means Baghdad must rescind immediately its annexation of Kuwait and accept in principle liability for any losses, damage or "plundering" of Kuwait.

The resolution also demands that Iraq "cease hostile or provocative actions by its forces," including missile attacks and flights by combat aircraft.

It demands Iraq arrange for the immediate release of all allied prisoners of war and begin to return seized Kuwaiti property.

All detained Kuwaiti and foreign nationals are to be released immediately under Red Cross auspices and the remains of the dead returned.

The resolution implicitly threatens a resumption of hostilities by pointing out that, until Iraq complies with all its terms, a council resolution authorising force remains in effect.

Under pressure from the Soviet Union and China, the United States dropped more bellicose language that would have authorised hostilities if Iraq failed to comply with any of the demands.

The resolution maintains all economic sanctions against Iraq, including foodstuffs, unless specifically allowed by the sanctions committee.

Led by India, several non-aligned nations have proposed a resolution easing those restrictions which the council may consider on Sunday.

Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

bridges, was damaged or destroyed in U.S.-led allied bombing raids during the 42-day conflict.

Iraqi TV Sunday released film of a smiling President Saddam in his first televised appearance since early in the Gulf war.

The 45-second videotape made available to Western media was filmed Saturday at a meeting between President Saddam and three aides to discuss restoring public services, information ministry officials said.

Most Iraqis have not seen President Saddam since Iraqi Television went off the air about 10 days after the war started Jan. 17.

The film, showed President Saddam in a brown military overcoat and black beret chatting, smiling and taking notes on a pad in a room decorated with pink velvet curtains.

Seated with him were Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassam, Minister of Industry Hussein Kamel Hassan and Deputy Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Abdul Sattar Ahmad Al Ma'ini.

There was no indication why the deputy chief of staff was attending the meeting instead of

Chief of Staff Gen. Hussein Rashid.

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council has banned firing of weapons into the air to celebrate the preliminary ceasefire that went into effect Thursday.

It warned that unspecified "strict measures" would be taken against violators.

"The festivities making the ceasefire have been accompanied by some firing in the air in expression of the delight felt on this occasion in all parts of Iraq," said the statement.

"However, as this phenomenon has exceeded its limits, it should be seen as containing certain harmful elements that contradict all the national and humane values," said the statement.

It warned that the firing could be exploited by "agents of Zionism and imperialism."

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said that Iraq had set up special committees to "study and implement broad and intensive plans" for rebuilding.

The media, meanwhile, continued its defiant tone against the United States and its allies.

"Seven months of military and economic war against Iraq, which covered even foodstuffs, medicine and political propaganda warfare, failed to intimidate Iraq and break its will and steadfastness in confronting the forces of evil and aggression," Al Thawra said in an editorial.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Hospice in the Christian quarter of the Old City.

That settlement increased Christians and drew condemnation from the United States. The Greek Orthodox Church which owns the property is contesting the move in court.

The seminary "owns" at least 10 buildings or complexes in the Muslim quarter, a spokesman said. But he 150 Orthodox students need more room, he said.

Opposition members of parliament said the extra funds to seminaries were approved by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who "owns" an apartment in the

Muslim quarter. They believe the funds were to buy more buildings in the Christian and Muslim quarters.

Asked what the money was for, a housing ministry spokesman said: "United Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel and we will make every effort to strengthen the Israeli element in every part of the city."

A Palestinian is seeking a court order to evict Ateret Cohanim students from the building, which he says belongs to his family.

Saad Tari, a resident of the Old City, said the site had been vacant for 22 years but continued to belong to his family.

Police said he went to Jerusalem magistrates' court to demand the students' eviction. Israel Radio said the court would debate the case Thursday.

Air raid

(Continued from page 1)

army deployed in Iqlim Al Toufah after PLO guerrillas fired more than 60 rockets into the "security zone."

The Israeli raid came hours after Lebanese soldiers disarmed two Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets aimed at the Jewish state.

Military sources said Sunday an army patrol discovered the rockets overnight in the village of Ras Al Hamra, which is in the Nabatieh district on the edge of the "security zone."

The Katyushas were disarmed shortly before midnight and an hour before they were due to be fired, the sources added.

President Elias Hrawi pledged Saturday to end Katyusha attacks against Israel from South Lebanon by Palestinian guerrillas.

"As of today, I will not tolerate that Katyushas be used to provoke (Israeli) invasion (of Lebanon)," Mr. Hrawi told a delegation from South Lebanon.

Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

Egyptian troops to join the U.S.-led coalition which fought Iraqi forces last week, said he was calling for a sincere Arab reconciliation, not one based on "state-

ments, remarks or slogans learnt by heart."

The wise man is the one who makes use of the lessons of calamities," he said.

The Egyptian leader said the Arabs must attempt to settle their border disputes and work out plans for Arab security and economic development, two points he said were indivisible.

A Gulf minister said Sunday any regional security system set up after the Gulf war must take account of international as well as Arab security interests.

"We should seek to lay down a practical formula based on solid foundations and on joint interests," Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Ali Al Khater told a meeting of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Riyadh.

"Arab national security is a comprehensive concept that has several dimensions. Peace and stability to our countries is part and parcel of the Arab and international peace and stability," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted him as saying.

It gave no further details of the security system debate at the talks, which were attended by GCC foreign ministers.

Egypt, Syria and the GCC states are expected to outline a security and economic cooperation pact at a meeting in Damascus Tuesday.

Mr. Mubarak said the countries of the region, including Iraq and Israel, must ban nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and he also called for efforts to stop the conventional arms race in the Middle East.

Mr. Baker said the United States seeks to maintain an "enhanced naval presence" in the Gulf but wants Arab countries to dominate post-war security arrangements.

Mr. Baker, who will visit several Middle East countries this week, said his primary role will be to gather leaders' opinions. He said he will not carry any new proposals about the Arab-Israeli impasse or the Palestinian problem.

But Mr. Baker voiced optimism for progress on the Palestinian issue.

The car of the future — a friendly back-seat driver

By Suzanne Perry

Reuter

BRUSSELS — Sit back and relax in the no-sweat car of the future.

It will plan your route, warn you about traffic jams, pay your highway tolls and find parking spots. It will even tell you how to get to your hotel in a foreign city — in your own language.

Sounds far-fetched participants in a recent European community-sponsored conference on automobile technology said products that amount to a friendly back-seat driver are already coming on the market.

"It's great," said Ian Catling, a British transportation consultant who used a route-guidance system in Berlin. "You say, 'take me to the Hilton,' and it does."

More than 40 projects from the EC's drive research programme were on display at the conference, each reflecting collaboration between two or more EC countries.

Launched in 1988, DRIVE (dedicated road infrastructure for vehicle safety in Europe) supports high-tech road-safety and traffic-management projects — which also promise to make driving more fun.

One scheme, Pamela, is developing a communications system between cars and roadside stations. Cars would be fitted with on-board receivers to pick up information such as parking availability.

The system could even pay parking fees using "smart" parking meter that debits a personal account. But Thomas Wille, engineer at Philips components in Hamburg, promises it won't issue parking tickets.

"We had some great discussions about that," he said. "We think users won't accept the system if it's connected to the police."

The RDS-alert (for radio data system) project is working to develop a standard for an FM

radio channel that can feed information about traffic conditions to an on-board data base.

Drivers punch in the codes for selected roads in their adapted car radio. They then receive a message on screen or from a voice synthesiser, such as: "Six km traffic jam caused by road construction."

"The driver can decide, 'today I'd better drive over the A10 rather than the A11 because the A11 is congested,'" said Ralf Duckeck, engineer at Germany's Robert Bosch.

Drivers who hate scrambling for coins will be grateful to the Smiler team, led by France's CIE Generale D'automatisme, which is studying the use of microwave links for non-stop highway toll payments.

The technology is already being used in a pilot project in Italy called "Telepass." Highway lanes are fitted with antennae that can read on-board "smart cards" (like the ones used for public telephones) as cars pass through.

You either pay through your bank account or in advance — anonymously — if you don't want your whereabouts traced.

The DRIVE project, which is now nearing the end of its three-year exploratory phase, aims to standardise new automobile communications systems throughout Europe.

It was launched with a three-year budget of 120 million European currency units (\$168 million), half provided by the EC and half by the project participants.

EC research ministers in December gave preliminary approval to extend the programme until 1994. The budget for the new phase, which will include pilot projects, is expected to be about 300 million ECUS (\$420 million), with an EC contribution of 124 million ECUS (\$174 million).

This would bring the total cost of the project to around 420 million ECUS (\$588 million) by 1994.

The system could also allow

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Tourism industry hopes for recovery after Gulf ceasefire

BERLIN (R) — The world tourism industry is hoping the Gulf ceasefire will rescue business this year and some agents are even selling tours to war-shattered Kuwait.

"Thank God the war ended," said Feriati Uygur, a director at the Turkish consulate in Frankfurt.

He is among 3,900 exhibitors at Berlin's 25th International Tourism Fair, the industry's largest, which opened Saturday and runs to Thursday.

The tourism business, especially in the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, collapsed in January when the allied coalition began its air offensive against Iraq.

The only people in my rooms were war correspondents," said Bahar Tahhal, an owner of 12

hotels in Syria.

Exhibitors said fear of guerrilla attacks and a worldwide recession could dampen demand but nevertheless expected a recovery this year to 1990 levels.

International airlines estimate the Gulf war cost them \$1 billion in January due to higher fuel and insurance costs and because customers were too scared to fly.

But demand for package holidays, where bookings had halved in January, had surged in the last few days to destinations removed from the Middle East, said Klaus Simon, sales manager for the LTU charter airline in Germany.

"Spain is booked out," he said. LTU, Germany's third largest package holiday operator, had sales 50 per cent higher than the previous year.

There was even an improvement in demand for the eastern Mediterranean since Thursday's ceasefire.

"People are picking up brochures and talking about booking flights in April," said Chrystalla Lazaridou, spokeswoman for the Cyprus Tourist Office in Frankfurt.

Although interest had returned, operators said the fair may not be a completely reliable indicator for worldwide demand.

This is because Germany's economy, unlike others, is still booming. Tourists could not make bookings at the trade fair but only collect brochures.

They're all taking brochures but we now have to get them to make decisions," said Elaine Vaughan, sales manager for Sandals Resorts in Jamaica.

French firm signs Kuwaiti TV contract

PARIS (AP) — Thomson-CSF, the French electronics giant, has signed a contract with Kuwait to provide urgently a television broadcasting system to the war-ravaged emirate, Thomson officials have said.

The contract was one of the first concluded by Kuwait for national reconstruction.

The officials would not divulge the financial terms of the contract, which provides for the system to be operational in only two weeks.

The package includes a studio, a five-kilowatt transmitter and a van for reporting outside the studio, the official said.

Ordinarily such systems take three months after receipts to become operational, but in this case the system will be ready for use two weeks after the components arrive, they said.

Thomson provided the hardware and other systems for Kuwaiti television in the 1970s.

International banks in Gulf look for post-war positions

BAHRAIN (R) — International banks in the Gulf are seeking different, more specialised roles to survive in a constrained post-war financial climate, according to managers in the region's offshore banking centre, Bahrain.

They predicted that some of the smaller offshore banks that swarmed in to suck up petrodollars during the oil boom years of the 1970s will go to the wall.

"Smaller banks were a creation of the boom. Some are already rationalising themselves into oblivion," one manager said.

Those that remain should be leaner, fitter, more expert in particular areas of business, and more concerned with raising revenues than building up ever-increasing asset bases.

"None of us are going to be asset-driven. There will be much less emphasis on lending, more on revenues," said a senior loans manager.

Banks which relied too heavily on interest earnings from huge loan portfolios over the past 20 years have seen their loans go bad through Third World debt crises, and squeezes in the corporate, real estate, and farming sectors of industrial nations.

In this respect, Gulf banks have been following an international banking trend to generate more reliable earnings from fees on banking, investment, and treasury business.

Even within the region, the coalition war against Iraq was not the beginning of their problems. The structure of the market was changing throughout the 1980s as oil prices fell and with them the revenues of regional governments.

But Iraq's invasion of Kuwait choked off early signs of a regional economic recovery and created a new crisis of confidence in the region.

Bahrain-based institutions — Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), Gulf International Bank (GIB), and Invescorp — are taking different tracks in the search for profitable niches.

GIB has chosen the regional role, local bankers say.

The fact that GIB is jointly owned by the Gulf Arab states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the UAE, Oman, and Qatar — with Iraq also on the board — has guided its decision to focus on regional clients and reconstruction.

GIB let many of its senior staff go in January but retained strong teams to deal with corporate business and fund management for local institutions, and to build up its position as a major player in Gulf currencies.

ABC seems to be taking the international road. The bank has not announced this as a policy but its actions show it is increasingly positioning itself outside the re-

gion, bankers said. ABC will open a wholly-owned banking subsidiary in London April 1. The bank has said it eventually will roll its European operations into the new ABC International Bank PLC.

ABC figures show that last year it already had 56 per cent of its business in Europe, 17 per cent in the Arab World, and the rest roughly equally shared between Asia, North America, and Latin America — underlining its growing overseas role.

Investcorp has carved out a niche as a local investment manager offering a door into international markets.

The company has created a business to provide investment services to local institutions and very wealthy individuals, investing mainly in international companies and property.

"They make a nice living doing that," said a local manager.

Japanese exports show strong growth in January

TOKYO (R) — Japanese exports showed strong growth in January, but were unable to overcome seasonal factors, leaving the nation's current account in the unusual position of being in the red.

Japan's current account balance — the broadest measure of its trade in goods and services — showed a \$33 million deficit in January against a \$59 million shortfall in the same month a year earlier, the finance ministry has reported.

January is about the only month in which Japan's accounts with the rest of the world are in the red. For most of the year they show billion-dollar surpluses, but those surpluses are declining overall. Japan's current account surplus for 1990 was \$35.79 billion against \$577.16 billion the year before.

Economists cautioned that January data are usually distorted because of the long holiday period in Japan at the start of the

month. The Gulf war also had an impact this year.

Within the overall current account, Japan's merchandise trade surplus grew to \$3.01 billion in January from \$1.07 billion a year earlier.

Exports climbed to \$21.52 billion from \$18.22 billion while imports rose to \$18.51 billion from \$17.15 billion a year earlier.

Economists said much of the strong export growth was attributable to the weakness of the yen in mid-1990 when many contracts were arranged.

A weak yen increases demand for Japanese products abroad because it reduces their costs in foreign currencies.

The dollar/yen rate was 131.40 yen to the dollar at the end of January this year against 144.40 at the same time a year ago.

"The effect of currency markets is adding about 10 per cent to the value of exports," said Paul Summerville, economist at Jar-

dine Fleming Securities Ltd, Tokyo branch.

Although U.S. economic growth has been sluggish, demand for Japanese products remains strong in Europe and Asia.

"Export growth has been unusually strong," said Russell Jones, economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International Ltd.

Imports on the other hand were inflated by the impact of high oil prices.

The average price of a barrel of oil imported in January was \$26.60 compared with \$18.50 a year ago, increasing Japan's oil bill even though oil imports by volume declined 1.8 per cent year-on-year.

Economists said Japanese companies may have laid on extra stores of oil in December in anticipation of the Gulf war.

Elsewhere in the current account, Japan's deficit in the so-called invisible trade balance, which takes in tourism and other services, widened to \$2.80 billion from \$1.39 billion a year earlier.

A ministry of finance official told reporters January's invisibles account was especially wide due to an increase in the travel deficit. The number of Japanese heading abroad was higher than the number of foreigners coming here.

The deficit in the long-term capital account remained fairly steady at \$2.94 billion.

Economists expect this data to be severely disrupted in the next month or two as Japan fulfils its pledge to contribute \$9 billion to the allied Gulf war effort.

Soviet parliament paves way for wider foreign exchange trading

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament has adopted a law that will permit wider participation in foreign exchange trading and may help the country to achieve its goal of making the rouble convertible.

The new law on hard currency regulation outlines procedures for foreign currency transactions inside the Soviet Union and envisages an end to the monopoly of the state-run bank for foreign economic affairs, Vneshekonbank.

President Mikhail Gorbachev last week reaffirmed his commitment to making the rouble convertible, a key element in his plans to introduce a market-oriented economy and attract foreign investment to reverse industrial decline.

"We must make the rouble convertible as soon as possible," he told local officials during a tour of the republic of Byelorussia.

Igor Faminsky, head of a research institute at the Soviet State Foreign Economic Commission, said the new law, due to become effective April 1, would mean wider participation in currency dealing.

A foreign exchange market could be set up this month, he told a news conference.

"Not only Vneshekonbank will be dealing in hard currency... the exchange should have started on Jan. 1, but it was delayed for technical reasons and should

open some time in March," Faminsky said.

"We have to move towards a system in which enterprises can buy their own currency," he noted.

Faminsky said there was not much interest at present in selling hard currency for increasingly worthless roubles.

"We have to be realistic. The exchange should work, but we have to wait and see what its real role will be. The difference with the auctions is that there will be wider participation, not just state enterprises... any kind of enterprise can take part, even foreign," he said.

Many foreign investors have shied away from Soviet projects because they are unable to repatriate profits. Some have opted for complex barter deals.

TASS news agency said the new currency law recognised the rouble as the only legal means of payment on Soviet territory. But deputies told reporters this did not mean hard currency could no longer be used in special shops.

TASS quoted deputy Yuri Blokhin, who presented the law, as saying it had been examined by experts at the International Monetary Fund who "on the whole, assessed the bill positively."

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union plans to dismantle the powerful state trading organisations which control the country's imports and exports of key commodities.

"A government decision is being prepared that will gradually transform the all-union trade organisations into independent bodies," he said Faminsky.

He said most would become companies with shareholders and some would be broken up into smaller units. The reforms were expected to affect the vital oil export agency Soyuznefteexport and the grain-buying monopoly Exportkhleb.

"Most importantly, after the transformation, they will not be monopolies," Faminsky told Reuters after a news conference on foreign trade.

Foreign companies might be allowed to participate in the new structures, he said, but some problems had to be ironed out.

"One very important detail, which determines our position, is that our internal prices are way out of line with external prices," he said.

Soviet wholesale oil prices, for example, are about three or four times cheaper than world market levels.

Faminsky said that if Soyuznefteexport were broken up, there would have to be some way of compensating for the loss in budget revenues, possibly by introducing an export tax.

Bidding war breaks out for top oil engineers to rebuild Kuwait

LOS ANGELES, California (AP) — Skilled workers who can help rebuild Kuwait's petrochemical industry are in short supply and engineering and construction firms are bidding for the specialists.

While companies with business in the Middle East have been setting up special phone lines and personal offices to handle job applicants, finding the right person isn't easy.

"It's very competitive market: right now and the engineer who has the right skills is really going to be in the catbird seat," said

Jacobs Engineering Group, a Pasadena company with a 28-year history in Kuwait.

"We're four days into peace, and we already see that the drill pushers want \$2,000 a day and maintenance people are talking about getting \$80 an hour. This is the bar talk in the industry," said Richard Slater, a senior vice president at Jacobs.

Slater warned that the Kuwaitis with whom he deals are eager to give business to U.S. companies, but could be alienated if they feel they are being gouged.

"Making a short-term killing isn't the best policy for the industry," he said.

Jacobs pays starting engineers \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year, and

adds a 30 per cent pay bonus, free housing and other perks for Mideast service.

The pressure now will be for those wages to climb higher, engineering and construction industry officials said.

At Parsons Corp. in Pasadena, spokeswoman Debra Williams said the company was hiring hundreds of engineers even before Iraq invaded Kuwait, mainly oil and gas specialists for projects in the north slope.

"There was already a major expansion going on in several oil fields," she said.

"And it's not just engineering, but also those firms that manufacture the heavy equipment for refineries, these multimillion-dollar hydrocrackers and whatever. Those industries also have so much work that Kuwait is just going to add to a full plate," he added.

San Francisco-based Bechtel Group, the second-largest U.S. construction and engineering company, has a letter of intent from state-run Kuwaiti petroleum Corp. to be the project management contractor.

Mike Kidder said Bechtel will send 4,300 employees and subcontractors to Kuwait.

There will be plenty of work to share.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, March 3, 1991			
Central Bank official rates			
	Deutsche mark	433.7	436.3
	Swiss franc	300.1	303.1
	French franc	127.3	128.1
	Japanese yen (for 100)	496.0	499.0
	Dutch guilder	384.9	387.3
	Swedish crown	117.3	118.0
	Italian lira (for 100)	36.1	36.4
	Belgian franc (for 10)	210.9	212.2
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0	
Pound Sterling	1263.7	1273.3	

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Latvians, Estonians vote on independence from Moscow

RIGA, USSR (AP) — Latvians and Estonians voted Sunday on independence from the Soviet Union as the Baltic republics' leaders advanced their separatist policies from their parliaments to the people.

Teb balloting came less than a month after residents of the third Baltic republic, Lithuania, overwhelmingly voted in favour of independence, and two weeks before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's nationwide referendum on holding the Soviet Union together.

"We have dreamed all our lives about independence. Our fathers lived in a free Latvia," said Zinaida Radzina, 49. She said she voted "yes" on the ballot that asked the question: "Do you support the democratic and independent statehood of the Republic of Latvia?"

Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunovs, casting his ballot in a candy factory turned into a polling station for the day, predicted that 70 per cent of the turnout would vote for independence for the republic, with 1.8 million eligible voters.

Gorbunovs said Sunday was a historic day for Latvian independence, "because, before it was confirmed by the deputies.

The vote is little more than a public opinion poll, carrying no legal weight. But it represents a strong challenge to Gorbachev, who has branded illegal last year's independence declarations by the three Baltic republics. The Latvian parliament declared independence May 4.

It also serves to pre-empt Gorbachev's March 17 referendum, which is designed to test the national will in preserving the union of 15 republics. The Baltics, Armenia, Georgia and Moldova have said they won't participate.

Lithuanians voted in favour of independence by a 91 per cent margin in their poll Jan. 9.

The margins in Latvia and Estonia are expected to be closer. Only 54 per cent of Latvia's 2.7 million people is ethnic Latvian, and 33 per cent is Russian. In Estonia, 65 per cent of its 1.5 million people are ethnic Estonian and 28 per cent are Russian.

In the Estonian capital of Tallinn, voters lined up at voting stations before the 7 a.m. opening to cast their ballots, the independent Estonian News Agency (ETA) said.

It quoted Oswald Kukk, an election official, as saying, "The

referendum will show Moscow and, most of all, the whole world what people in Estonia want."

Kukk said Gorbachev tried to convince the West that only a small percentage of Estonians wanted independence. "Now the world press is here to get the opposite story."

In Latvia, pro-Kremlin forces in Latvia have distributed leaflets and posters that warn a "yes" vote would lead to a "totalitarian" regime and turn non-ethnic Latvians into second-class citizens, but they failed to dissuade many Russians from supporting the separatist cause.

An 18-year-old Russian, Kiril Streikov, said outside a polling station in a Communist Party-controlled district of Riga that he was voting for independence "because we are sick and tired of taking orders from the Kremlin and the people know better what they need." He said he had many Russian friends who would vote likewise.

Claudia Androsenko, who was born in Latvia in 1936, said she was voting "yes" because her Russian father and Polish mother often spoke about how much better life was before the Soviet Union seized the Baltic states in 1940. "It was better in all ways,"

But, Vladimir Tseitlin, a 58-year-old Russian, said he was voting against independence because he feared his citizenship would be taken away from him and his family in an independent Latvia.

"I am for democracy, but not this kind," said Tseitlin, whose parents named him for Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin. "We want a good life, but we wonder whether the price we have to pay for a good life will be too high."

Natalia Asinova and Nadezhda Pritapova, voting in another heavily Russian district, complained bitterly about steep price increases introduced by the separatist government and said they were voting "no."

"Many times on trolley buses and in other places, Latvians say, why don't you get out of here — go to your homeland," Mrs. Asinova said. "I tell them my children were born here and I have lived here for 30 years."

Beta Biryuta, a Latvian woman standing nearby, heard Mrs. Asinova's remarks. After waiting for her to leave, she said, "These people who are saying they will live badly in an independent Latvia — let them go in their Communist paradise in Russia and let other people come here."

Georgians build army to fight Kremlin, minorities

TBILISI, USSR (AP) — Before Zviad Gamsakhurdia's pro-independence party won a majority in the Georgian parliament last fall, he surrounded himself with armed men that he called his "friends."

Now he is appointing them to top positions on the Georgian police force and calling them his army.

The aspirations of Gamsakhurdia, whose party holds 155 seats in the 250-member legislature, present Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev with one of the most explosive ethnic problems he has faced to date.

"We are creating our own army," Gamsakhurdia told the Associated Press in a recent interview.

Gamsakhurdia's critics say he plans to use that army against his political opponents and the non-Georgians who make up 31 per cent of Georgia's 5.3 million people.

But the 62-year-old Gamsakhurdia, whose father Konstantin was an acclaimed Georgian novelist, is a hero to most Georgians. His coalition, Round Table-Free Georgia, advocates independence, which helped it win at the polls.

The Georgians are a dark-eyed, olive-skinned race. They have a strict code of honour based in bloody but vain resistance to waves of invaders that included Persians in 523 A.D. and the Soviet Red Army in 1921. The tiny Christian nation is perched on the Caucasus mountains near the Black Sea.

Gamsakhurdia, whose dissident activities landed him in jail and internal exile in the 1970's, has been pushing a programme of gradual independence from the Soviet Union's highly centralised economic and political system.

He wants to raise the prices of the fruits and wines, for which Georgia is famous, to buy Soviet oil, natural gas and other raw materials on which the republic depends.

"Here we have committed a revolution," Gamsakhurdia said in the interview. "We changed our constitution... the working of the Soviet constitution has almost stopped on our territory."

His parliament has passed a relatively modest package of laws that includes changing the Georgian flag, anthem and national emblem, as well as suspending elected local governments in favour of prefects appointed by him and approved by the legislature.

Police in the town of Mtskheta said they were authorised to give out any details about the accident. Nairobi police said the officer in charge was unavailable.

One survivor, Abdul Mubamad Ali, told the Standard newspaper that most of those who drowned were on a lower deck.

The first word about the tragedy came when two survivors staggered into the Jumbo Club Tourist Hotel, its manager Barney Ngare told the Sunday Nation.

The hotel sent a small boat to help save those still on the sinking vessel, but rescue workers had to cut the lifeline they had thrown when too many people grabbed onto it, said Ngare.

Otherwise their boat would also have sunk under the weight of the numbers, he told the Nation.

The hotel, however, sent another boat able to carry 15 people at a time to shore, said the Nation.

The boat had set sail on Feb. 26 from the Somali coastal town of Kismayo, 405 kilometres north of Malindi.

Federal leaders try to end Serbian-Croatian conflict

PAKRAC, Yugoslavia (AP) — The federal leadership Sunday ordered a pollout of special Croatian police who stormed public buildings in this town and ejected rebellious Serbian reservists. The Serbs were instructed to disband.

The federal presidency also threatened further action, if necessary, to keep peace between the two ethnic groups.

A Croatian officer said his republic's units were squared off Sunday against federal forces sent to the town the previous day. The state-run media said there had been no clashes so far between the army and Croatian police.

Yugoslavia's President Borisav Jovic, a Serb, ordered military units into Pakrac after Croatian police seized municipal buildings from ethnic Serb police reservists and disarmed them early Saturday.

Pakrac is in Croatia, but about 60 per cent of the town's population are ethnic Serbs and the rest are Croats. The Serbs are seeking autonomy.

The showdown in Pakrac was the latest confrontation in a feud that has threatened to break this nation of competing republics, ethnic groups and political ideologies.

The republics of Croatia and Slovenia, with centre-right governments, want Yugoslavia transformed into a loose association of sovereign states. Serbia and Montenegro, which are both governed by Communists, favour maintaining the centralised federation. Serbia is the largest republic.

The Croats moved into Pakrac Saturday and seized municipal buildings from Serb reservists who took control of the local police force on Feb. 22. The reservists have expressed solidarity with ethnic Serbs in southern Croatia's Krajina region who have rebelled against the Croatian government.

The Croats fired guns and tear gas to disperse crowds when units stormed the town of 8,000 people, said the Croatian officer, speaking on condition of anonymity. The town is about 100

kilometres southeast of Zagreb, Croatia's capital.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, quoted Croatia's deputy interior minister, Milan Brezak, as saying three Croatian policemen were injured by gunshots in Saturday's raid. He said there were no civilian casualties or overnight violence in the region.

Serbian television said up to six people were killed in the police raid.

However, independent Yutel Television said there were no injuries.

The eight-man federal presidency, which commands Yugoslav's army, gathered for an urgent meeting to discuss the crisis in Pakrac.

The leadership, ending the meeting early Sunday, ordered Croatian Special Police Forces to withdraw from Pakrac. It also ordered ethnic Serbian reserve units demobilised within 24 hours.

In its statement, it said it would "if necessary... use other measures to prevent outbreaks of intercommunal conflicts and secure peace and protection for all citizens." It did not elaborate.

There was no immediate word about whether the Croats and Serbs were complying with the federal order.

It was unclear whether Jovic had consulted with the other presidency members before ordering the military into Pakrac.

An army patrol of 10 armoured cars and at least three tanks had driven through the town and draw up about 500 metres from the heavily armed special Croatian units, the Croatian officer said.

Both police and army units patrolled Pakrac's empty streets overnight.

Croatian television accused Serbia's leadership of instigating the unrest, saying that "all their attempts are aimed at overthrowing legally and democratically elected authority (in Croatia) and the introduction of a state of emergency."

'Soviets avoiding draft'

WASHINGTON (R) — Draft dodgers have soared in the Soviet Union, with more than 20 per cent of draftees failing to report for duty since the last call-up, the Washington Post said Sunday.

U.S. intelligence officials reported the findings during a recent closed-door meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the paper said.

A year ago draft resistance only amounted to about one per cent of those called up. Defence Intelligence Agency Director General Harry Stoyser told the panel.

"Ethnic strife and separatist challenges to Moscow's authority jeopardise the future of the all-union armed forces," he said, according to the Post.

More than one in five draftees called up in late 1990 had not reported by January. The Baltic republics, Armenia and Georgia, which have been torn by unrest, accounted for much of the 20 per cent, Stoyser said.

The newspaper reported that Stoyser added that use of Soviet military forces to repress internal dissent was harming morale, and that Soviet forces in Germany were having "unprecedented disciplinary problems."

making the Pretoria Prison execution chamber the second busiest in the world. Only Iran executed more people than South Africa.

Officials said there were another 314 people on death row. Most were still awaiting a review of their sentences under the more liberal rules, but 12 people were in the final stages of their appeals and could hang soon.

The parents of white death row inmate Barend Strydom, who murdered eight blacks in a shooting rampage in 1988, have teamed up with black anti-apartheid lawyers to campaign for the abolition of capital punishment, the Sunday Star reported.

"It does not matter what race or colour a person is, I will fight the death penalty," Strydom's mother said. "If you want to see how far the punishment goes, you have to look at the families, at how they suffer."

Pretoria urged to cancel execution

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African Council of Churches (SACC) appealed to President F.W. de Klerk Sunday to stop the planned execution of a murderer the first person to go to the gallows in 15 months.

Paul Bezuidenhout, convicted of stabbing to death a 54-year-old woman and a two-year-old child, is due to hang at dawn in Pretoria prison Tuesday, human rights lawyers said.

The SACC urged the reinstatement of a moratorium on capital punishment during the apartheid reform process in South Africa, where the execution rate was once the world's second highest.

It urged De Klerk to commute the sentence on the 22-year-old coloured (mixed race) killer, saying: "We believe in the sanctity of life."

An SACC statement said the death penalty was inhumane, did not deter crime and was particularly inappropriate in a divided

country undergoing extreme social and political upheaval.

It said human rights lawyers were being refused contact with Bezuidenhout and were having difficulty obtaining the court records necessary to apply for a stay of execution.

"It is extremely hard for them to take steps when time is so pressing," the SACC said.

Officials announced Bezuidenhout's scheduled execution only last week.

De Klerk halted executions a year ago to give legal experts time to draft more liberal rules on capital punishment which were adopted by parliament last July.

The new rules introduced extensive automatic review procedures and removed the obligation on judges to impose the death sentence where no mitigating circumstances could be found.

In 1987 South Africa hanged 164 people, most of them black,

making the Pretoria Prison execution chamber the second busiest in the world. Only Iran executed more people than South Africa.

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150 die in shipwreck off Kenya

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The death toll in a shipwreck off Somalia's coast Saturday is likely to reach 150, officials at the Kenyan resort of Malindi said Sunday.

Many of those who died were trapped below the decks of the Hama when the boat struck a reef, navy and harbour officials said. Bodies were being recovered by the Kenyan Navy.

The ship had been carrying about 650 Somalis from Kismayo in southern Somalia to Mombasa to escape the fighting in their country, where President Siad Barre was toppled by rebels in January.

Over 4,000 Somali refugees are already in Mombasa. Survivors who managed to reach the shore at Malindi were taken to the Kenyan port city after receiving medical treatment.

Two of Kenya's English-language dailies said the boat sank about 1.6 kilometres offshore. A third newspaper said the sinking occurred about 10 kilometres from the coast.

Local authorities would not provide further information about the accident.

Police in the town of Malindi said they were authorised to give out any details about the accident. Nairobi police said the officer in charge was unavailable.

One survivor, Abdul Mubamad Ali, told the Standard newspaper that most of those who drowned were on a lower deck.

The first word about the tragedy came when two survivors staggered into the Jumbo Club Tourist Hotel, its manager Barney Ngare told the Sunday Nation.

The hotel sent a small boat to help save those still on the sinking vessel, but rescue workers had to cut the lifeline they had thrown when too many people grabbed onto it, said Ngare.

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The hotel, however, sent another boat able to carry 15 people at a time to shore, said the Nation.

The boat had set sail on Feb. 26 from the Somali coastal town of Kismayo, 405 kilometres north of Malindi.

Tamil rebels suspected in blast that killed minister

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan police said Sunday they suspected Tamil separatist guerrillas planted a bomb that killed a government minister who directed the fight against them.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjith Wijeratne was killed Saturday on his way to work when his car was shattered by a remote-controlled bomb planted in a

attack, a military source said. Krishnakumar Kittu, a member of the Tigers' Central Committee, contacted by telephone in his London office, neither confirmed nor denied his organisation was responsible.

"I have heard that Wijeratne was killed. I am waiting for word from our people in Jaffna," he said.

Jaffna, in northern Sri Lanka, is the main base of the Tigers. Wijeratne was a tough politician who conducted a ruthless military operation in 1989 to smash a Marxist group in the southern part of the island that tried to topple the government.

The People's Liberation Front drew its support from Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority.

The minister, originally a tea planter, was in charge of military operations in his capacity as deputy defence minister. He was also minister of plantations.

A stalwart of the ruling United Nations Party (UNP), he was a staunch ally of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who held the defence portfolio.

Premadasa said Wijeratne was a hero who fought to preserve the unity of the country. "The fight will go on," he told a public rally Saturday.

The president promoted Wijeratne posthumously to the rank of general. He was a colonel in the army volunteer force.

Wijeratne is to be accorded a state funeral with full military honours Wednesday, which has been declared a day of national mourning and a public holiday.

The security men and five colleagues who were injured in the blast were following the minister in two jeeps.

The explosion, heard about three kilometres away, also wrecked a bus, eight cars and a dozen motorcycles and damaged several houses and shops.

"The Tigers have the expertise to carry out such a massive bomb

150 die in shipwreck off Kenya

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The death toll in a shipwreck off Somalia's coast Saturday is likely to reach 150, officials at the Kenyan resort of Malindi said Sunday.

Many of those who died were trapped below the decks of the Hama when the boat struck a reef, navy and harbour officials said. Bodies were being recovered by the Kenyan Navy.

The ship had been carrying about 650 Somalis from Kismayo in southern Somalia to Mombasa to escape the fighting in their country, where President Siad Barre was toppled by rebels in January.

Over 4,000 Somali refugees are already in Mombasa. Survivors who managed to reach the shore at Malindi were taken to the Kenyan port city after receiving medical treatment.

Two of Kenya's English-language dailies said the boat sank about 1.6 kilometres offshore. A third newspaper said the sinking occurred about 10 kilometres from the coast.

Local authorities would not provide further information about the accident.

Police in the town of Malindi said they were authorised to give out any details about the accident. Nairobi police said the officer in charge was unavailable.

One survivor, Abdul Mubamad Ali, told the Standard newspaper that most of those who drowned were on a lower deck.

The first word about the tragedy came when two survivors staggered into the Jumbo Club Tourist Hotel, its manager Barney Ngare told the Sunday Nation.

The hotel sent a small boat to help save those still on the sinking vessel, but rescue workers had to cut the lifeline they had thrown when too many people grabbed onto it, said Ngare.

Otherwise their boat would also have sunk under the weight of the numbers, he told the Nation.

The hotel, however, sent another boat able to carry 15 people at a time to shore, said the Nation.

The boat had set sail on Feb. 26 from the Somali coastal town of Kismayo, 405 kilometres north of Malindi.

Thai caretaker premier seeks cabinet after coup

BANGKOK (AP) — Interim Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun was reportedly consulting with the military junta Sunday on forming a government that he hopes will return the country to democracy.

Anand met with junta leaders at the army headquarters, military officers told reporters waiting outside.

Anand will be allowed freedom to choose his cabinet, said one of the five junta members, deputy army commander Gen. Issarapong Nonpakdee.

The junta announced Anand's selection as caretaker prime minister Saturday, a week after seizing power in a bloodless coup and ousting Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's elected government. Chatichai and his aides were detained, and martial law was imposed.

In a newspaper interview Sunday, Anand urged a rapid return to democracy.

"We must return to parliamentary democracy as soon as possible. There is no excuse to run the country under martial law one minute longer than necessary," Anand told the Thai newspaper The Nation.

An interim constitution gives the junta dominance over the caretaker government prior to the next national election, which must be held by the end of April 1992.

The 58-year-old Anand is a widely respected former diplomat and successful businessman.

Analysts said Sunday that by selecting Anand, the junta hoped to improve its image with the United States and several other Western countries which have

criticised the Feb. 23 takeover.

In the interview, Anand told The Nation that Thailand would continue its conservative economic policies and privatisation to increase efficiency would remain a top priority. He said that major infrastructure projects, held up by the junta to check for corruption by Chatichai ministers, should be allowed to proceed.

Foreign Ministry spokesmen have said the coup will not mean any changes in Thailand's essentially pro-Western foreign policy.

Just after his appointment, Anand told reporters that he planned to name a mostly civilian government within three or four days. He indicated that military officers would fill the security-related posts.

Anand said he might not agree with some articles of the interim constitution issued by the junta Friday, but would respect it.

"I am sure that the military know that I am a person of my own thought, who is going to express his opinion," he said.

Chatichai and some of his aides, detained since the coup, will be released once the new government was formed.

Anand was ambassador to the United States in 1972 and also Thailand's permanent representative to the United Nations.

He retired from government service in 1979. He is now president of the multi-million dollar Saha Union Conglomerate, and of the Federation of Thai Industries.

Anand is "one of the most capable public figures that we have" and people are likely to have confidence in him, said Surin Pitsuwan, a member of the parliament ousted by the coup.

Hundreds of shoppers escape Bangkok store fire

BANGKOK (R) — Hundreds of shoppers fled unhurt from a fire in a department store in Bangkok's central district Sunday.

The second big blaze in the Thai capital this weekend. Police helicopters plucked three people from the roof of the nine-storey building amid billowing smoke. A police spokesman said three more people were rescued from lower floors by firefighters using ladders.

Initial reports monitored on police radio said dozens of shoppers were feared trapped in the Central Department Store on Silom Road.

It later became clear that the fire started above the shopping levels on the fifth floor, the first of several floors of offices and storerooms. Few employees were at work.

The police spokesman said he believed everyone had been evacuated safely and the fire brought under control.

It was not known what started the blaze.

Meanwhile Bangkok slum dwellers Sunday huddled in makeshift shelters after a fire swept through their squatter area Saturday, leaving more than 3,000 people homeless.

The blaze that razed hundreds of shacks in the Thai capital's port district was ignited by an explosion in a chemicals warehouse.

Twenty-four hours after the initial blast, explosions still cracked out from flaming warehouses nearby, although firefighters had doused the blaze in the shantytown.

"I heard bangs all through the night," said Surabhin Manojari, lying in a tent on a football field that looked like a refugee camp.

About 30 other tents had been pitched. Hundreds of people sat surrounded by bundles of cloth, bits of furniture and other belongings they had managed to grab as they fled the inferno.

The Social Welfare Department, the army and private charities were distributing food and other necessities.

"How can I take care of my children with no roof over my head, no clothes and no money," asked a 47-year-old woman named Nui, who escaped with her six children.

About 650 shacks were destroyed, leaving at least 3,200 people homeless, General Issarapong Nonpakdee, secretary of Thailand's military junta, said in a visit to the scene.

Dozens of people were injured, mostly cut by shattered windows.

The massive blast boomed across Bangkok in the early afternoon, and the fire tore through the maze of flimsy shacks next to the warehouse complex in Klong Toey Port on the Chao Phraya River.

Several warehouses and lines of containers were also destroyed.

A port official said Sunday the fire was still raging in four warehouses storing phosphorus, plastics and chemical liquid.

Pratheep Ungsongtham Mata, leader of a slum-dwellers association, angrily blamed the authorities for the tragedy, saying there had been three fires in the shantytown in the past 20 months.

COLUMN

Restaurant serves 500 meals to homeless

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A trendy Los Angeles restaurant donated 500 meals to a homeless shelter after drawing the ire of customers for refusing to serve 25 homeless people given free tickets to a buffet dinner.

Gorky's Cafe and Brewery said dozens of callers and customers expressed disgust over a manager's decision to turn away the homeless. A Gorky's regular, Franc Novak, won a free buffet dinner for himself and 25 guests of his choosing as part of a promotion.

Novak, a 32-year-old painter, passed out his 25 tickets along Skid Row. When Novak and his guests showed up, a manager said the homeless people posed a threat to other diners and ordered them to leave.